

First, Dallas, seeks Criswell co-pastor

DALLAS (BP) — First Baptist Church here has voted unanimously to seek a co-pastor of the 25,000-member congregation, to serve alongside its pastor of 44 years, W.A. Criswell.

The action, at a Wednesday night prayer service, Aug. 24, was requested by Criswell, who will be 79 in December, and said he sought it to prevent any "hiatus" in the church's ministry in the event of his death or if he should become disabled.

Criswell, who over the past two years has brought 22 Southern Baptist pastors before the church, said the

man he has in mind for the post and with whom he has talked informally about it is among that group, but he declined to name him.

Asked if the man would be a "fundamentalist," Criswell said, "Yes, because this is a fundamental Baptist congregation."

The man preferably would be 40 years or more younger than he is, the pastor said, and the man he has in mind, he noted, is not from Texas or the Southwest.

The church had 7,709 in Sunday School on Aug. 21.

Sunday School trustees ask to get information

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — A motion that any trustee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board may request and receive information "pertinent to the operation" of the institution was adopted by a 47-20 vote during the closing session of the Aug. 15-17 meeting of the 89-member board of trustees.

The motion, as finally adopted with one amendment, states: "Any information pertinent to the operation of the Baptist Sunday School Board, excluding matters involving personnel issues or matters which in the opinion of the president might give rise to legal liability, shall be provided in a timely manner to any trustee of the board upon request. Any information requested and received by a trustee shall be used in a responsible manner consistent with the fiduciary position occupied by that trustee."

The original motion by T.C. French Jr., pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., was amended by a 38-4 vote to add the exclusions on personnel and liability issues.

French said the purpose of his motion was "to get information" for documentation. "If we're going to act as a board and give the president direction, we've got to have information," he said.

During about one hour of debate, several trustees questioned the need

for the motion, noting they had received any information they had ever requested from the administration. A motion to refer the matter to the general administration committee failed by a 38-32 vote.

After the meeting, President Lloyd Elder said, "We have had an open-door policy concerning the providing of information to trustees, and we will continue to have this policy."

Linda Lawson writes for the BSSB.

HMB appoints state couple

ATLANTA — John and Ann Boggan were among 46 people appointed to mission service by the Home Mission Board, SBC, in its July meeting.

Boggan was appointed church planter apprentice in Saline, Mich. Mrs. Boggan was appointed with her husband as family and church worker.

Since 1986, Boggan has served as pastor of Beat Line Baptist Church in Conehatta. He has also served as chaplain for the Newton County Gideons International in Newton.

Mrs. Boggan has been a school teacher in Newton since 1979. The Boggans have four children: John Edward, Gregory Scott, Michael Wayne, and Cynthia Ann.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 1, 1988

Published Since 1877

Clarke funding question heading for convention

By Tim Nicholas

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on Monday bought an additional building for the convention and approved a budget of \$19,871,693 for 1989, denying a request from the Mississippi College trustees to further augment funding for Clarke College in Newton.

The budget, as presented by the Budget and Cooperative Program Promotion Committee, included a line item of \$55,095 for the second year. That amount, as of a year ago, would have amortized the current debt of Clarke College, which has been operated by MC since 1981, but with separate books.

That debt continues to escalate, especially in light of the decreasing amount given Clarke for administrative funding by the convention's Education Commission. The commission's position is that Clarke is a campus of MC, as are the satellites of William Carey — on the coast and in New Orleans — and warrants no special funding. Administrative funds continue to go to Clarke, but in decreasing amounts over a 9 year period which began in 1983.

MC President Lewis Nobles read a motion from the MC trustees that asked that the line item be increased to \$200,000. This would, he said, allow Clarke to operate in the black.

Nobles said that the MC trustees had voted to advise the convention board "that Mississippi College has looked at the further operation of Clarke College in a careful light, and that it will be impossible for Mississippi College to operate Clarke College on the present financial basis." The trustees asked for the line

item increase on a permanent basis. The motion noted that "without this kind of funding, it would not be feasible to continue the operation of Clarke College."

Nobles said he had given this motion to the Education Commission during its July meeting, a meeting from which the Baptist Record was excluded; and that the Commission voted not to include or endorse the increased line item, but to pass it on to the budget committee.

Convention board members passed the original budget without amending to increase the line item and Nobles reported that he would present his motion at the November meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as an amendment to the budget.

Nobles had promised the convention that he would not close Clarke College, but instead give it back to the convention itself should continued adequate funding prove impossible. At the present Clarke's accreditation as a junior college is in danger should adequate funding not be secured.

MC was asked by the convention in 1980 to take control of Clarke after Clarke's trustees reported they could no longer lead the institution with its declining finances. MC took over in 1981 and in 1983 the Education Commission began cutting administrative funding. Nobles said his trustees were "bitten" when that happened, as they had been when they took over a nursing program where funding was phased out.

Earl Kelly, MBCB Executive director-treasurer told the board that to say Clarke's troubles began in 1983 would be erroneous. He said that 18 of

the last 20 years Clarke operated in the red. The total deficit would be about \$1 million, but Clarke used quasi endowment funds and plant fund monies to balance.

Nobles explained that from MC's point of view there are still two separate institutions, with separate accreditation, separate books, and separate student populations.

A motion was made to increase the line item to MC's request and during discussion of that, Bill Stewart, chairman of the Education Commission, read from the merger document between MC and Clarke. He said that on the effective date of the merger, Clarke would be merged into MC and the "separate existence of Clarke College shall cease." He said the first two years Clarke would be known as Clarke College, a division of Mississippi College, and that it was the intent of the parties that Clarke would become an integral part of Mississippi College.

Kelly noted that budgeting is not done in isolation, that the budget calls for 37.5 percent of the total budget to go to SBC causes outside the state. That much would have to be added in addition to the increased line item.

After more discussion, the motion was withdrawn with the assurance from Nobles that his motion would be presented at the convention in November.

In other business board members approved purchase of the building adjacent to the Baptist Building known as the Mississippi State Employment Service building at the corner of President and Yazoo Streets. Purchase price is \$475,000 with the convention board paying for removal of asbestos which, it was noted, should be \$90,000 or less. The board will take control of the building in October of 1989. The property was valued at \$675,000.

Additionally the board approved Executive Committee recommendations that Neron Smith, church building consultant, be transferred to be the language missions consultant, that board employees get three percent cost of living raises in January and up to two percent merit raises on their anniversaries, and that the bi-racial commission be abolished at the end of this year when National Baptist trustees take control completely and total funding for the Mississippi Baptist Seminary cease at the end of 1989.

The budget, which includes, as noted above, \$7,170,635, or 37.5 percent to SBC causes, will be considered by the Mississippi Baptist Convention during its November meeting in Jackson.

Controversy resurfaces over 'In God We Trust'

By Rod Taylor

WASHINGTON (BP) — An ad placed in the July 22 edition of USA Today has awakened a decade-old controversy over the motto "In God We Trust" on U.S. currency.

The ad, placed by the National Legal Foundation, claimed Madalyn Murray O'Hair is preparing to renew her attempts to have the slogan taken off currency in the United States. It asks concerned citizens to send in ballots that in turn will be sent to Congress.

Robert Skolrood, the Foundation's executive director and general counsel, told Baptist Press that

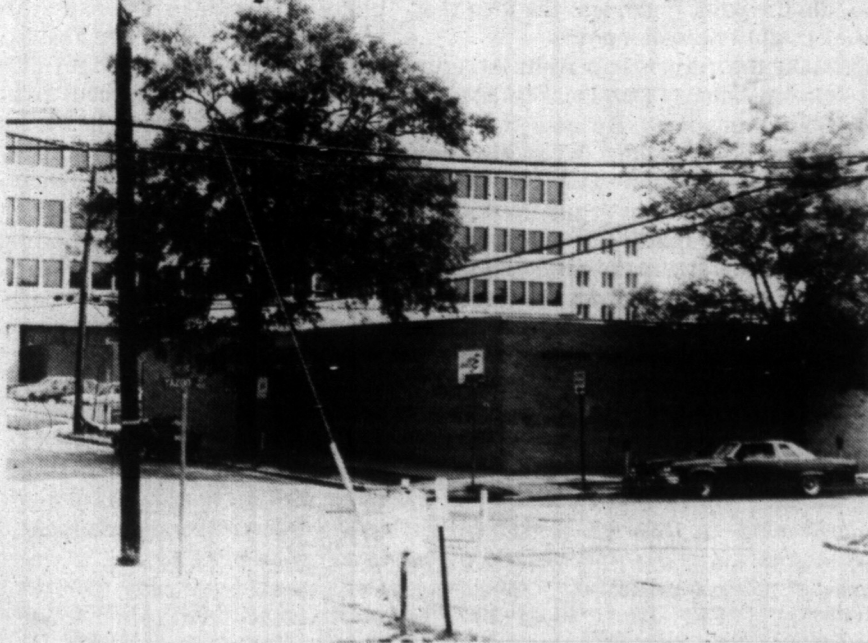
although no suit has been filed yet, O'Hair's organization, American Atheists, is planning to renew its attacks.

"We called, and she said she was going after it again," Skolrood said.

"She said she was devoting the rest of her life to getting 'In God We Trust' off U.S. currency."

O'Hair brought suit against the federal government in 1978 to have the phrase removed from the nation's currency. After losing the case in a federal district court, O'Hair's appeal was turned down by the 5th Circuit

(Continued on page 4)



In the foreground is the building which is being purchased by the MBCB. The adjacent Baptist Building is in the background.

Super Summer — simply super

By Greg Smith

For the first five days of August, summer at Mississippi College was simply "super."

In addition to regular summer school activities, some 250 teenagers representing 35 churches from around the state were on the Clinton campus for the second annual Super Summer Mississippi. This week of intensive discipleship training, sponsored by the Mississippi Convention Board, exposed participants to "a learning adventure in biblical discipleship and

evangelism" that encouraged them in "go for the goal" of true Christian discipleship.

"Super Summer is designed for the young person who is looking for more advanced training in discipleship and evangelism," said Robin Nichols, a consultant with the state Church Training Department and one of the organizers of the event. "Its goal is to provide them with intensive training in how to lead others to Christ and disciple them."

Led by some 30 youth workers and 40 college students from around the state, the week's sessions focused on evangelism, relationships, decision making, and quiet time disciplines. Students were given the opportunity to hear about and discuss these and other topics in both "schools" of about 50 teenagers and "families" made up of from 10 to 12 members. The discipleship sessions were balanced by a competitive recreation program and daily worship time that combin-

ed to give participants a well-rounded experience in Christian growth.

The week also featured an adult institute for youth workers. Those sessions, led by Dean Finley of the Home Mission Board, dealt with approaches to youth ministry and how to meet the needs of teenagers.

A key part of that leadership came from the team leaders, a group of college students selected to pass on their faith to the "next generation."

"We were looking for people who are enthusiastic about their walk with Christ and can serve as role models for the students," said Keith Cating, BSU director at Ole Miss, who coordinated training for the team leaders. "I honestly think these team leaders have the most long-lasting impact on the students because of their close contact with them."

Everyone involved in Super Summer got a chance to put their growth to the test on Thursday afternoon, when students and leaders participated in "Operation Clinton." This massive survey effort sent teams into the surrounding area to witness door-to-door and collect prospect information for local churches. The effort provided a firsthand opportunity to experience a true learning adventure in evangelism.

Throughout the week, students operated under an Olympic-year motto that encouraged them to "go for the goal" of successful Christian living. The efforts of the Super Summer leadership, combined with the music of the group Gabriel and the special speaking of Jerry Pipes, were geared explicitly to help them reach that goal. Some students participated in Super Summer 1988 because their lives were changed after a friend who attended in 1987 shared their love for Jesus Christ.

Greg Smith is minister of youth, Calvary, Tupelo, and an organizer of Super Summer.



This is a Super Summer exercise in teamwork. Each group had to help one another out of a triangle within three trees without touching or going under the string encircling them. Their only tool was a wooden board. (Photo by Tim Nicholas).

Sunday School periodicals publish plan of salvation

NASHVILLE (BP) — Including the plan of Christian salvation prominently in Southern Baptist Sunday school periodicals is a visible symbol of an increased emphasis on evangelism through the Sunday School, said Sunday school leader Harry Piland.

"Evangelism is emphasized at every opportunity in the Sunday school curriculum. Printing the plan of salvation may be the most visible way we are highlighting it but not the only way," said Harry Piland, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School division.

The plan of salvation for accepting Jesus Christ as personal savior has been included in some literature since January 1988. By October, it will appear in all lesson, leadership and devotional periodicals, along with Vacation Bible School materials. In most cases, the feature will be located on the inside front cover.

Although the presentation of the plan of salvation will vary among

publications and age levels, it will include six basic elements: God loves all people, all people are sinners, the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, a person must repent of sin, a person trusts Christ as savior, and a person confesses sin and professes faith in Christ.

The presentation also encourages people who trust Christ as savior to be baptized and join a church.

In addition to regular evangelistic emphases in the Sunday School curriculum, each curriculum line will have a coordinated annual evangelism lesson for older children through adults, beginning in 1990-91.

The evangelism focus in lessons and in the plan of salvation features are tailored to the appropriate age level, he added.

Beginning in October, preschool take-home materials will include a note to parents describing how to become a Christian. With the materials, non-Christian parents can be reached for Christ.

Controversy resurfaces

(Continued from page 3)

Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Skolrood said the purpose of the ad was to unite Christians behind the motto so they will not be caught unaware, as he claimed they were with the school prayer issue.

"Maybe we can scare her out of (filing a suit)," John Murray, president of American Atheists, said one of the organization's chapter presidents does plan to file suit against the government again, and the organiza-

tion is pledged to help with the suit.

Murray said his organization has three main targets in its effort to secularize the government: to remove "under God" from the pledge of allegiance, to remove "In God We Trust" from U.S. currency, and to change the national motto from "In God We Trust" to "E Pluribus Unum."

"We're going to keep at it until (the laws) are changed, until those public arenas are secular," he said. "We want a nation with a government that is completely neutral about religion."

God is still on the throne

(Continued from page 2)

April 30, 1987: Today I am walking with only a cane! GOD STILL HEALS IN THE YEAR 1987! GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL! GOD HAS A PURPOSE IN OUR LIVES GOD IS GOD!

God impressed on me to share this testimony with my friends. My prayer is that in some way I might be a blessing to someone in need.

As we live our lives today, 1987, the pace is so fast that we seem to forget that we are God's chosen people. We are here to serve the Lord!

Thanks to my family for being so patient; thanks to the many clients who helped me in so many ways; thanks to the clients who built the ramp to my office; thanks to the one who helped me purchase the battery operated wheel chair; thanks to my secretaries for making the extra steps; thanks to my many friends who did not stop praying. But most of all, "THANK YOU, GOD."

Fay Mowdy is a tax accountant in Sebastopol.

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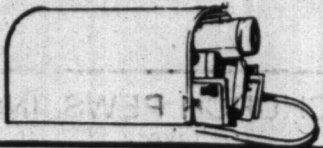
Don't Blame Your Age For Poor Hearing.

Chicago, Ill.—A free offer of special interest to those who hear but do not understand words has been announced by Beltone. A non-operating model of the most popular canal hearing aid in America today will be given absolutely free to anyone who sends for this free model now.

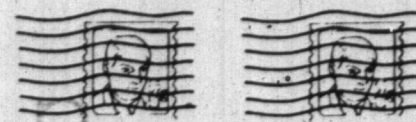
Send for this model, it will show you how tiny hearing help can be. It is not a real hearing aid and it's yours to keep free. The actual aid weighs less than an eighth of an ounce, and it fits completely into the ear canal.

These models are free, so we suggest you write for yours now. Again, we repeat, there is no cost, and certainly no obligation. All hearing problems are not alike and some cannot be helped by a hearing aid but many can. So, send for your free model now. Thousands have already been mailed, so be sure to send your name, address and phone number today to Dept. 14469, Beltone Electronics, 4201 West Victoria Street, Chicago, Illinois 60646.

Offer not valid in California.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Thanks, Mississippi Baptists

Editor:

It is with deep gratitude that I express to you my appreciation for what Mississippi Baptists have contributed to my service for God. I am a product of Mississippi Baptists through and through. I learned of commitment to Christ from you and received God's call to ministry among you. I have had the pleasure of studying in two fine Baptist institutions, William Carey College and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. I have been fortunate to serve in various capacities in five Mississippi Baptist churches. Not only have you helped me to gain valuable life experience, you also have demonstrated your commitment to credible theological education. It is to my advantage that I have had the chance to study under many Southern Baptist giants who also were nurtured and educated by you and others like you. Were it not for your faithful support of our colleges and seminaries through the Cooperative Program, the recent completion of my formal education would not have been possible.

Thank you for your commitment to cooperation and missions. Thank you for your commitment to an educated ministry. Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for your weekly offerings, which help to prepare men and women for Christian service.

Ronald E. Bishop, pastor
Salem Baptist Church
Collins

The ABC bill

Editor:

Mississippi churches that operate child care programs — and indeed everyone who believes in church-state separation — should be concerned about a day care subsidy bill now awaiting floor action in both houses of Congress. The Act for Better Child Care Services (better known as the "ABC bill") is being rushed through the legislative process without due consideration of the church-state issue.

The ABC bill sets up a massive program of vouchers and other forms of aid to day care centers, including those run by churches and other religious groups (an estimated one-third of the total). Because church-related day care centers rightfully include a significant component of religious education, such aid would unconditionally entangle church and state, just as aid to parochial schools does.

As is usual with such government aid schemes, the money comes with strings attached. Specifically, the ABC Bill says, "No financial assistance provided under this Act shall be expended for any sectarian purpose or activity, including sectarian worship and instruction." This means that church day care centers that receive tax support cannot use the money to teach religion to the

children in their programs.

Thus, the ABC Bill puts church-related day care centers in a difficult position. If they take tax support, they sacrifice an important part of their ministry, and they open themselves to surveillance by government agencies to ensure that no religious instruction is taking place.

The ABC bill spells disaster. Concerned people should contact their congressional representatives immediately.

Robert L. Maddox
Americans United for Separation
of Church and State
8120 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, Maryland

Improve revival

Improve Baptist Church, Columbia, MS, Marion County Association, saw God's spirit work in a tremendous way during Revival services held from July 25-29. James Messer, staff evangelist from Shiloh Baptist Church in Saraland, Alabama, was the guest evangelist. Gordon Bennett, Minister of Music/Youth at Bellefontaine Baptist in Ocean Springs, MS, led the music.

I am convinced James Messer has a unique gift for evangelism. James has an uncanny ability to hold the attention of the listeners, and he appeals to people of all age groups. His sense of humor matched with his outgoing personality are a winning combination for an evangelist.

I attribute the success of the revival to the church's commitment to prayer. Before the revival, cottage prayer meetings were held in six different homes around the community.

Mike Morris is the Minister of Music at Improve, and Ronald Walley leads the Youth and Youth music.

James requested that I not emphasize numbers. But we did have 10 professions of faith and 17 rededications.

Roy B. Moore, pastor
Improve Church
Columbia

The main thing

Editor:

As a lay person in a typical Southern Baptist Church in Petal, Mississippi, I have followed with great interest the so-called theological battles of the past several years within our denomination between what the media has labeled the fundamentalists and the moderates. Back home at Petal Harvey Baptist church, we don't seem to have drawn the battle lines, divided ourselves into two theological camps, or resorted to any type of purging of members along theological beliefs. It seems that as a loving, caring, sharing, giving, helping body of believers who are banded together for the express purpose of sharing the Gospel of Christ with the lost, that we have missed out somewhere on getting involved with what apparently has become the theme of our convention.

No sir!!! Don't think that for a minute that I believe that our church

is out of focus or off track or even just plain different from any typical Southern Baptist church. I am convinced that out there in the heartland of our convention the many Christians of the many typical Southern Baptist churches feel that the time has come to put aside (or at least get it off the front burner) the issues that are dividing us and get on with the work before us.

Yes, the Main thing should be the Main thing again.

Another matter is the labeling of Christians either Fundamentalists or Moderate! A leading pastor in our convention was quoted by the Baptist Record as saying he would accept neither label. That pastor, unwittingly perhaps, has formed a new powerful group within the convention. One that we folks back home in the typical church would like to be a part of — the Majority. Perhaps we could have our own bumper sticker, "Love not Label." My thesis is that there are a handful of Fundamentalist leaders and Moderate spokespersons, and there is truly an ongoing struggle for leadership of our convention; but the vast majority of membership in our convention, probably 90 percent or more, have either not joined either side or have been improperly labeled by others into a particular group.

Bill Sansing
Petal

I would have to agree, because the

BAPTIST RECORD has been saying the same thing for years. The tragedy is that, theoretically, the conventions are expected to be extensions of the local churches, though there is no organizational connection between the two areas of work. As you have noted, however, there are few, if any, churches which have divided themselves in such a fashion locally as has been the case nationally. For some reason we seem to be able to get along better with those we know on a more intimate basis than we can with others with whom we are not so familiar. — Editor

A church on every corner

Editor:

Help yourself, Mississippi! You are The Belt Buckle of The Bible Belt, surrounded by freedom of religion — the source and sustenance of every freedom. Will the Lord keep giving when you refuse to learn?

The first and only lesson of charity and education (neither of which can be divorced from the other) is that one worships the Lord Jesus Christ best when that person loves him above all else and also loves his neighbor as himself, desiring Jesus just as wholeheartedly for his neighbor as he does for himself.

WHO is a neighbor? A neighbor is anybody else (family, friend, fellowman, foe) — whether he is in need or not. He is to be preferred in

honor before oneself ("put first") and prayed for and worked for in full faith that the Lord will fulfill his will for that person and for you. Above all, he is to be loved — above your own life, if need be.

Let us pray or not live! Let us work or not live! Let us serve or not live! Let us suffer or not live! Let us intercede or not live! and Let us love or not live! May Jesus Christ be praised! We ask all these things simply in His Name and For His Sake. Thy Will be done now and always. All Glory and more unto thee! Amen.

The All-Seeing Heart

It's not greatness of work that pleases the Son:

It's the love with which the work is done.

It's not the length of our interceding, But how much our hearts are bleeding.

It's not our dry-eyed prayers About which our Lord cares: It's the prayers and weeping When we might be sleeping.

It's not greatness of work that pleases the Son:

It's the love with which the work is done.

Mrs. William T. Myers, Sr.
Hattiesburg

"Most people want to be delivered from temptation but would like it to keep in touch."

— ROBERT ORBEN

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VS.

Univ. of Tenn. at Martin

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First, Carthage, dedicates family life center

Carthage, First Church, held dedication ceremonies July 31 for its recently completed Family Life Center, behind the main church building. After the ceremonies, there were tours of the building.

David Satterwhite, director of missions, is shown bringing greeting from 33 other churches in the association. James Gregory, chairman of the Building Committee, was presented

a plaque from Ted LeCren in appreciation of his work. Pictured, left to right, are Ted LeCren, Paul Allen, James Gregory, Randy Von Kanel (who recently resigned), Eddie Hamilton (who began the program and former pastor), Oster Daniels (former pastor), Edd Brashier, minister of music (who recently resigned), and Harry Daniels, interim pastor of Center Hill, Carthage. Others seated on the stage, but not in the picture, were the contractors, builders, and architect.

Moss Point ministers in Memphis

By James Kellum

A group from First Church, Moss Point, traveled to Memphis in July to make repairs to a church and conduct Backyard Bible Clubs.

A total of 34 people made the trip which was coordinated by Dickie DeLashmet.

Four teams conducted the Backyard Bible Clubs which took place at churches in transitional communities, in an Asian neighborhood, and in a vacant lot in mid-town Memphis. Nine professions of faith

resulted.

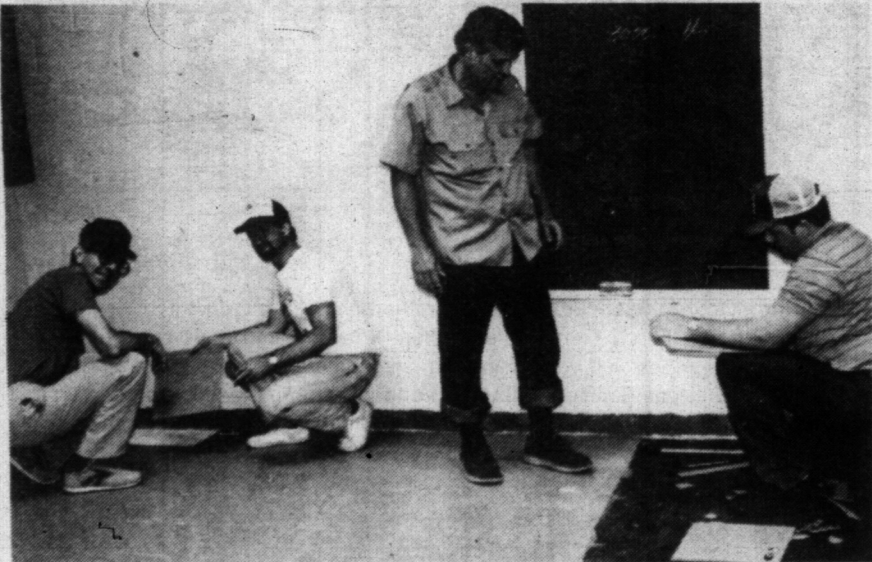
Latrelle Brewer led the construction crew which made repairs on Westhaven Baptist Church. The men replaced ceiling and floor tiles in an area of the building which had been damaged by water, making about \$4,000 worth of repairs.

Boyd Smith and Marty Perkins remained for several more days with a youth team from the Moss Point church. They provided the staff for Opportunity Camp which is for

children in grades 2-6 who speak a language other than English. Most were Asians with a few Hispanics.

In sharing experiences on return, Miss Wendy Hardin said the trip confirmed her call and commitment to missions. Jeffrey Brewer testified that the trip was used by the Lord to show Jeffrey that he is to be involved in missions.

Kellum, a Mississippi native, is missions programs director for Shelby County Baptists.



Alton Delancy, Richie Perkins, Boyd Smith, and George Martin replace floor tiles.



Jan Delashmet sorts and arranges clothing for a crisis closet. People of Shelby Association donated the clothing. Mrs. Delashmet's husband, Dickie, coordinated the mission tour to Memphis from First Church, Moss Point.

Homecomings

Friendship East, Charleston: Sept. 11; services, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served in fellowship hall; afternoon singing by the Brady family singers; J. G. Thomas, pastor.

New Zion, Monticello: Sept. 4; Bobby Smith, pastor; Sunday school, 10 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; Daniel Gandy, guest speaker; afternoon singing service, 1:30. The Daniel Gandy Family and the K. C. Beeson Family.

Mt. Pisgah, Enid, will celebrate 100th year

Mt. Pisgah Church, Enid, will celebrate its centennial with homecoming on Oct. 9. Services will start at 10 a.m. and continue through the afternoon.

Johnny Spencer, former pastor, now of Duncan, will be the keynote speaker.

Dinner on the ground and singing will follow the morning service.

Remember when you looked forward to earning the salary that you can't live on today? — The Anna Gazette-Democrat

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Sept. 8 Area Preschool/Children's Choir Leadership Clinic; FBC, Gulfport; 6:30-9:30 p.m. (CM)
- Sept. 9-10 Chaplaincy Conference; Camp Garaywa; Noon, 9th-Noon, 10th (CoMi)
- Sept. 10 Area Preschool/Children's Choir Leadership Clinics; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Carriage Hills BC, Southaven/Fairview BC, Columbus/FBC, Clinton/Temple BC, Hattiesburg (CM)

Board will pay fees for ministers' counseling

By Louis Smith

Occasionally there comes a time in the life of a human being — even a Christian — even a minister — when professional counseling is needed. For several years the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has assisted with counseling to the minister and his family on a cost-sharing basis.

This service has been offered through the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department.

As of 1988, the Southern Baptist Annuity Board has included services provided by licensed pastoral counselors in its Comprehensive Medical Insurance Plan.

A number of approved counselors are situated across Mississippi to provide care within driving distance of most ministers. Should a minister choose to go to a clinical psychologist or psychiatrist, the Convention Board will participate.

Those eligible for this counseling are ministers, their spouses, and their

dependent children. A "minister" is considered to be a person recognized by his church, organization, or institution as being engaged in church-related service on a ministerial level, including for example, ministers of education, music, and youth.

The Convention Board will pay a fixed amount as its part of a counseling fee. The remaining cost will be negotiated by the counselor and the person concerned. The Annuity Board will then determine its portion.

Persons interested in the Pastoral Care Program can contact the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department for the name of the nearest approved counselor. The minister will contact the counselor and the counselor will, in turn, notify the director of the department before therapy begins.

Louis Smith is director of the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department.

Baptist presence felt during GOP convention

By C. Lacy Thompson

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Delegates and guests to the 1988 Republican National Convention in New Orleans found a city primed for entertainment, a veritable buffet of Cajun cuisine and Baptists prepared to witness and minister to human needs.

New Orleans rolled out the red carpet for the four-day gathering of Republicans. About 10,000 convention volunteers — including a number of Southern Baptists — worked day and night to prepare for the annual meeting and to ensure its smooth

operation from start to finish.

The volunteers included 14 Southern Baptist chaplains, who joined with Catholic and Jewish volunteers to provide an ecumenical ministry for conventioners. Jimmie E. Knox, director of Central City Ministries in New Orleans, headed the ministry effort, following the wishes of convention organizers by enlisting a range of chaplains for an ecumenical approach.

Of the 38 volunteer chaplains, 14 (Continued on page 10)

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Just for the Record

Thursday, September 1, 1988

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



A recognition service was recently held honoring the MISSION FRIENDS, GIRLS IN ACTION, and ACTEENS organizations of Fellowship Church, Lauderdale County. The theme was "PASS IT ON." Back row from left: Paula Everett, Dee Rutledge, Sondra Benton, Gina Armstrong, Pam Deisinger; middle row from left: Anunciata McElhenney, Holly Warren,

April McKee, Amy Parker, Toni Deisinger, Francine Benton, Jennifer Warren, Tori Thompson, Karen Combs, Beverly Rutledge, Nikki Harris. Front row from left: Kris Randall, Richie Bailey, Jay Everett, Tammy Winham, Emily Parker, Shari Randall, Samantha Jenkins, Meagan Scarbrough, Ledge Parker, Clint Galyean, Clint Brown, Matt Jenkins.



GAs of Mt. Zion Church, Independence, held their GA recognition service, May 22. Pictured, first row, left to right, are Jennifer Nelson, Christina Johnson, Charity Blair, Courtney Goudy, Courtney Ellis, Nikki Dunaway, Dianne Smith, and Bambi Everett. Second row, April 1, Patricia Steinberg, Carla Neal, Kelly Morgan, Amanda Williams, Amber Sowell,

Mindy Gitter, Nikki Scruggs, and Melinda Arger. Not pictured are Melanie Freeman, Lisa Pounders, Amy Birdsong, Mandy Thompson, Bobbi Smitherman, and Dawn Smitherman. GA leaders are Maxine Smith and Donna Morgan. Austin Moore, Jr. is pastor.

Youth Choir of First Church, Ocean Springs, recently completed a tour. They performed the musical, "The Light Brigade" at First Baptist Churches of West Lake, La., Eagle Lake, Tex., White Settlement, Tex., Princeton, Tex., and Parkview in Monroe, La. Larry Futral is minister of music and activities. Bruce Hennington is minister of education and youth. Paul Aultman is pastor.

Union Church, Roxie, held a revival and homecoming during July with good attendance at all services and five professions of faith, plus other decisions. The pastor, John Hudson, reports that the church building program is coming along well and they expect soon to be pouring the foundation. The young people of the church traveled to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, to see the Passion Play. Says Hudson,

"If you live in this area, listen to our C. B. Bible Club Devotion on Channel 10. The Lord is really blessing this outreach mission.

Vacation Bible School was held at Concord Church, (Yazoo) July 18-22 with an enrollment of 86 and an average attendance of 77. VBS director was Mrs. Margaret Neely. Ralph Cain is pastor.



Big Level Church, Wiggins, broke ground on July 10 for a new educational facility. It is phase two of a long range building program financed by the Together We Build program. A victory goal of \$68,000 has been committed. Pictured, left to right, are Cecil Jones, building committee chairman; Allen Albritton, deacon chairman; David Grisham, pastor; Mike Hatten, building campaign chairman; Nolan Hickman, longest member; Billy Moon, newest member; Bill Jones, building supervisor; and Lee Jones, WMU director.



Springville Church, Pontotoc County, had an old-timey day, May 29. Dinner on the grounds and gospel singing was presented by the Ministers Quartet. Brooks Turner is pastor.



Washington County Association held a Brotherhood/RA rally on July 26 in Greenville at Emmanuel Church Family Life Center; 120 men and boys were present, representing 12 churches. Jeff Vanlandingham presented a program concerning Central Hills Baptist Retreat. Grilled hamburgers and french fries were prepared by the men of the Brotherhood at Calvary Church, Greenville. B. M. Oglesby is Brotherhood director and James Kerr is RA director for the association. Roy D. Raddin is director of missions.



GAs in grades 1-3 at Colonial Heights in Jackson were honored at a Mother-Daughter Tea. They received sashes, pins, certificates, and merit badges. Pictured, back row, left to right; Maria Kilgore, Bethanie Hontzas, Millie Crosby, Ida Beth Jackson and Kristin Devore; middle row: Lawren Sample, Amanda Burton, Danuee Haight, Tina Ignozzitto, Leah Heath, and Ginger Jackson; front row: Amy Strayer, Mary Elizabeth Pritchett, Courtney Cain, and Anna Everitt.



GAs girls in grades 4-6 at Colonial Heights in Jackson received merit badges, sashes, pins, and certificates at a Mother-Daughter tea. Left to right are April Heath, Shelley Conlee, Casey Sample, Kyla Conlee, Amanda Burton, Angela Crosby, Jessica Case, Julie Sample, Rebecca Blakeney. Not pictured: Debbie Peeples.



GAs in grades 1-6 at Colonial Heights in Jackson were awarded badges at a Mother-Daughter Tea. They also received GA pins, sashes, and certificates. Pictured from left to right are Rebecca Miller, Julie Porter, Jamie Porter, Shellye Palmer, and Gretchen Segrest with leader Amy Palmer. Not pictured: Robin Prentice.



These Mission Friend girls look forward to beginning their GA steps. They received a sash and GA pin at the GA Mother-Daughter tea held at Colonial Heights Church.



David Hassell

David Hassell, with no hassle, fills void in Christian music

By Tim Nicholas

David Hassell is filling a void in Christian music. The Nashville-based singer-musician is "extremely energetic and not too rock and roll," he says.

Thousands of Mississippi Baptist young people know him from his performance at Youth Night at the Mississippi Coliseum, Aug. 5, or the five youth conferences he led music for at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly this summer.

They know him for his frenzied attacks with silly string which is sprayed from a can over a crowd and solidifying into string as it hits the air. They also know him for his more serious work such as a personal version of a Reba Rambo piece he calls You Don't Need Me, which is a conversation between David and God.

"When I started I just pictured myself doing more adult work, so all my public relations stuff was geared toward (them)," he says. For his first publicity picture he wore a coat and tie. His current one has a flamingo on it.

"As far as bounds, I probably take

people as far as I can safely go, not because of rebellion . . . I seriously want the kids to have fun," he says, "so I do a lot of the crazy things to involve the crowd." Things like asking the teenagers to untie one another's shoe laces, or batting beach balls around the hall.

Hassell is 30 and single. He was raised in Bessemer, Ala., and in high school he won the state's award for male vocalist of the year, giving him college scholarship money. He finished at Belmont College in Nashville with a major in voice.

He served as minister of music for a couple of Southern Baptist churches, he sold clothes, "slung french fries at a Burger King," was desk clerk at a hotel for three years, and went on the road for another couple of years with Christian bands.

Then Hassell got an audition with the group Andrus Blackwood and Company. He was hired as a backup singer and keyboard player. Later he also became office manager and road manager for the group, handling booking, representation, and logistics.

He loved it.

He began singing backup with others such as on Sandi Patti's "Morning Like This" album, Steve Green's "God and God Alone" album, and David Clydesdale's Christmas musicals. He's also designed a few album covers along the way and produced one tape of his own.

This fall, he'll go with a group of Tennessee Baptists to London on a partnership mission team, singing for high school and junior high students in school concerts and at crusades at night. He's raising support for the volunteer trip.

Hassell says he wants to continue his creative approach to worship and youth activity and do even more concerts.

"I want to be known as a person who can open his mouth and take you to the throne of God," he says.

"Despite all the crazy things I do, when it's time to be serious and share things, I want people to feel they're in the presence of the Lord by what is said and what is sung."

Alaska Baptists elect Duncan exec director

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP) — Bill Duncan, who has been interim executive director of the Alaska Baptist Convention for the past 18 months, was elected executive director-treasurer during the convention's annual meeting Aug. 9-10.

Messengers also adopted a \$1,683,172 budget, of which \$503,805 will be contributed by the 56 churches, 23 church-type missions and 18 preaching points affiliated with the convention. Messengers also approved an increase in the percentage of funds going to support the worldwide missionary, evangelism and educational ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention, upping contributions by a half percent to 31.5.

Duncan, 57, a native of Stuttgart, Ark., has been pastor of churches in Virginia, Oklahoma, Nevada, and Arizona. He moved to Alaska in 1967, becoming pastor of Hamilton Acres Baptist Church in Fairbanks. Later, he became pastor of First Baptist Church of North Pole, where he served 10 years.

In other business, messengers passed a resolution expressing "moral outrage" over the film, The Last Temptation of Christ, and urging all Alaskan Christians to boycott the movie.

Judson Owen, pastor of First Baptist Church of Palmer, was elected to a first full term as president of the convention. Last year, Owen was elected first vice president, but succeeded to the presidency when president Royce Christmas left the state.

Single adult leadership enrichment meets set

Single Adults and church leaders will have the opportunity to study the recent released "Single Adult Ministry in Your Church." The dates, places and leaders follow:

Sept. 10 — Area II — First Church, Tupelo, 9:30-2 p.m. led by Joe Armour, minister of single adults, First Church and area consultant.

Sept. 10 — Area VII (b) — First Church, Hazlehurst, 9-12 a.m. led by Jeff Swendenberg, Copiah-Lincoln single adult director.

Sept. 17 — Area I, First Church, Batesville, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Helen Johnson, area consultant convener. Single adults from area will lead the study.

Sept. 17 — Area IV, First Church, West Point, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mrs. Jackie C. Hamilton, Convener. Single adults from area will assist in teaching.

Sept. 17 — Area VI, Highland Church, Meridian, 9-12 a.m., Ron McGee, convener, J. Clark Hensley contract single adult consultant, MBCB, will lead the study.

Oct. 22, Area VIII, FBC, Hattiesburg, 9-12 noon. Kathy Vail, area coordinator, convener. Study will be led by single adults from area.

Nov. 4, Area III, First Church, Greenville 9-12 a.m. Sue Frothingham area coordinator. J. Clark Hensley will lead the study.

Dec. 10, Area IX, First Church, Gulfport, 9-12 a.m. J. Clark Hensley will lead the study.

These programs are designed to equip Single Adults and Single Adult leaders to either begin or improve a Single Adult Ministry in the church.

Area V held a workshop in the spring. This book study will be announced later.

Conferences will focus on making use of BTN

Utilizing BTN — the Sunday School Board's television training network — will be the focus of a conference which will take place in three locations in the middle of this month. The network, to which churches and associations subscribe, offers training in virtually every area of church life.

Title of the conferences is "How to Use and Administer BTN in Your Church and Association." They will be on Sept. 19 at Calvary Church, West Point; Sept. 20 at First Church, Brandon; and Sept. 22 at First Church, Picayune. Each will be from 7-9 p.m.

Conference leader at each will be

Jack Lewis, consultant in the church media library department of the Sunday School Board. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

Topics at the conferences include "Promoting BTN in the Church," "How Do I Get BTN Organized?" and "How Can a BTN Coordinator Help You?"

The conference is aimed at all church staff and key leaders in church program organizations.

Farrell Blankenship, BTN resource person for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will coordinate the meetings.

Offering will benefit BSU on black campuses

By Betty Smith

Approximately 10-12,000 students are enrolled in historically black colleges in Mississippi. The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions ministers to these students through the Baptist Student Union.



Mrs. Dawson, a faculty member of the Hinds Community College, Jackson Branch, serves as volunteer sponsor of the black BSU in Mississippi. According to Mrs. Dawson, more than 250 students on nine campuses participate in BSU activities, such as Bible study, choir, witnessing on campus and in the community, visiting hospitals and nursing homes, and assisting elderly and shut-ins. Volunteer sponsors assist local BSU in their programs.

The State Mission Offering helps train student leaders and volunteer sponsors to lead BSU programs on the campuses. Travel expenses are paid

for Mrs. Dawson as she carries out her responsibilities in the state. Expenses are paid for volunteer sponsors to attend Student Week at Ridgecrest or Glorieta.

The State Mission Offering helps pay expenses for spring and fall retreats at Camp Garaywa each year. Approximately 125-150 students from the nine campuses attend these two retreats for training, inspiration, and Christian fellowship.

Jerry Merriman, director of the Department of Student Work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, says, "These volunteer sponsors are doing good work through the black BSUs on their campuses. We are pleased that the State Missions Offering allows us to work with these sponsors and students."

The \$15,000 allocation for Student Work on black campuses accounts for less than three percent of the \$550,000 state missions goal for 1988. But its impact is great as it touches the lives of future leaders of Mississippi.

Betty Smith is secretary in the Mississippi WMU office.

Brotherhood plans training meets

A series of eight training conferences for Mississippi Brotherhood leadership is planned for mid-September. There will be conferences for leaders of Royal Ambassadors, Baptist Young Men, Baptist Men, Brotherhood administration, and mission action for men and boys.

The dates and locations of the conferences, each with identical pro-

grams and each beginning at 7 p.m., are as follows.

Sept. 12; First, Senatobia; First, Brookhaven; Sept. 13: First, New Albany; Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian; Temple, Hattiesburg; Sept. 15: North Greenwood, Greenwood; Ridgecrest, Jackson; and First, Ocean Springs.

Ministers, wives invited to study parent/child relations

Ministers and their spouses are the target audience for a conference on "Parent/Child Relations in the Minister's Home."

The conference, scheduled in three locations, will "examine the unique dynamics of the parent/child relationship, the expectations that influence the relationship, the rights of both parties in the relationship, and will seek to arrive at a healthy basis of relating to one another," according to promotional materials from the office of Julius Thompson, whose Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, is sponsoring the meetings.

The meetings will take place Sept. 12 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson; Sept. 13 at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg; and Sept. 14 at First Church, Grenada. Each session begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 3:30.

Terry Peck, career support consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be leader of each meeting.

Session topics include "The Volatile Nature of Anger — Theirs and Ours," and "The Pressure Cooker of Stress."

The meetings cost \$10 to cover price of the book "Parenting in the Minister's Home," and lunch. For reservations, write Thompson at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Louie Farmer's Diamond Weekend

Louie Farmer Jr. celebrated a Diamond Jubilee Weekend Aug. 12-14. After being Baptist student director for 34 years, eight at Clarke and 26 at USM, he retired in 1980. For his 75th birthday this year, he decided he'd like to see some of his former students and get an update on their lives. He and his wife, Etta Lee, sent out 250 invitations. Over 200 came to the three-day party — friends, relatives, former students, former co-workers. Fifty-three family members ate lunch with them Aug. 14 at 100 Westover, Hattiesburg, W. D. and I ate birthday cake on Aug. 12.

To show to his guests, he had prepared a picture-story of his 75 years. His pastor at Temple Church, Harry Lucenay, had given him the idea of mounting a series of photos, quotations, and mementoes and framing them, like slides. He put six months of work into the project, beginning last Christmas. As Joel Ray, Lebanon DOM, remarked to me, "This is not an egotistical presentation. Rather, it shows how God has worked through a life committed to him. It is a testimony of praise to God." A partial description of the presentation follows.

1. "It Took a Miracle" displays the telegram, dated Aug. 12, 1913, which Louie H. Farmer sent his mother-in-law, Mrs. T. W. Ferguson, announcing the birth of a 7-lb. boy, Louie Jr. Louie, who found the telegram years later in the drawer of his grandmother's sewing machine, made the marginal comment: "My Father is omnipotent, and that you can't deny, but when he took this Texas babe and made a campus minister, it took a miracle of love and grace."

2. "Baptist Roots" pictures his great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Farmer, charter members of White Settlement Baptist Church near Fort Worth in 1868; his four grandparents and his parents, all members of White Settlement Baptist Church. (Later his parents moved to Pleasant Point Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas.)

3. "Back at the Ranch" shows pictures of the Texas ranch where Louie grew up — house, barns, dairy, people (including Louie) riding horses. Below these is Louie's note: "With this background I still tend to think of people and things in terms of cattle, horses, sheep, milk, or eggs. That shows no disrespect — just my experience."

4. "The Twig Is Bent" (Early Religious Nurture) credits A Supportive Christian Home and A Teaching Church (represented by a Primary Sunday School lesson; a BTU quarterly, a picture of himself and sister Mary as children "ready for Sunday School"; a picture of his home church; a picture of the concrete cattle drinking trough where he was baptized in 1925). Beneath a picture of four big mules, Louie had fastened a paragraph about his following those mules with a plow in the summer of 1931 and communing with God about his life's work. "As a result came a call to the ministry that refused to go



Louie Farmer points to spots on the globe where former students at Clarke and University of Southern Mississippi are now missionaries.

away, a call as real as life itself, even today Aug. 12, 1988." To the left of the paragraph is his license to preach and below it Proverbs 22:6 TEV: "Teach a child how he should live and he will remember it all his life."

5. "Academic Preparation" shows items related to his education: Baylor — a B.A. degree, May 27, 1935; Southwestern Seminary — master's degrees in theology and religious education; North Texas State Teacher's College — a teacher's certificate. Though most of his seminary classmates were already pastors, no church had called Louie. (He didn't even know any BSU directors when God called him, so he thought God was calling him to preach. Baylor didn't have a BSU when he was there. And he thought the BSU at N. Texas State, with its devotions and candlelight services, was "just kid stuff.")

6. "Frustration deepens." "My frustration was at its deepest in 1941," he had written on this slide. "The darkest hour seems to come just before the dawn." He taught school for a while, but that didn't satisfy. He went to First Church, Meridian, Miss. on trial basis as education minister, but that didn't work out. He applied for the chaplaincy, but was rejected since he had no pastoral experience. Still his call would not go away. He served as associate pastor at First, Weatherford, and First Church, Orange, Texas. "God knew what he really had in mind for me. With every step I took he was preparing me for student work."

7. "That Kid Stuff" is an overview of his years as a campus minister. He traveled to Newton, Miss., for an interview about teaching English, but wound up leading their Baptist Student Union. "It was that kid stuff again." But this time many of the students at Clarke were ministerial students, as old or older than he. "I

spoke their language."

My own observation: Louie's counsel, influence, and example to students helped to chart the course of many lives. An eloquent affirmation of his effectiveness as BSU director was the globe set on a table at the center of the room, near the other displays. He had pasted a red dot on every spot where his former students serve as missionaries. The dots circle the globe. Like the old British Empire, the sun never sets on them!

On the bottom margin of "That Kid Stuff" he printed a verse of a hymn: "All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide. Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine and ten thousand beside . . ."

8. "Twice Blessed" introduces Louie's first wife, Mildred Melton, whom he married May 24, 1942, and who died in 1973, and his second wife, Etta Lee Everett Moody, whom he married in 1976. A picture shows the three women in his life — his mother, Mildred, and Etta Lee — "all devout Christians, all good cooks, all loved me!" (To his daughter, Reva, and two grandchildren he added five children and 12 grandchildren when he married the second time.)

"A man can inherit a house and money from his parents, but only God can give him a sensible wife." Proverbs 19:14 TEV is the verse he used to underscore this section.

9. "Broadening Horizons" pinpoints some of the places he traveled with student groups, including Baptist World Alliance meetings and Baptist youth congresses in several countries. (It was on a trip to the BWA in London in 1955 that I first met Louie). He attended 34 consecutive student conferences at Ridgecrest.

10. "Out to Pasture" — appropriately on gold paper — shows activities of his golden years — gardening, church and club activities.

11. "The Long Haul," a summary, pictures Louie from babyhood to age 75. Its concluding caption: "Sure I believe in miracles. I am one . . . Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee, how great Thou art!"

To his party the people came from Texas, Maryland, California, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Arizona. He received 72 birthday cards and letters from eight states and the Ivory Coast.

As he said, "All in all, it was an experience of a life time. Once like that in a lifetime has to be enough!"

Off the Record

Member: "Pastor, how did you get that cut on your face?"

Pastor: "I was thinking about my sermon this morning and wasn't concentrating on what I was doing and cut myself while shaving."

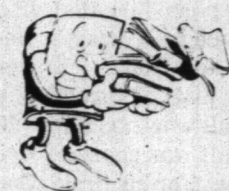
Member: "That's too bad. Next time you had better concentrate on your shaving and cut your sermon."

Thursday, September 1, 1988

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



At far right is Louie Farmer, retired BSU director. With him, left to right, at his 75th birthday party, are his sister, Mary Farmer; his granddaughter, Marianne Daniel; his sister, Lucille McWhorter; his brother-in-law, Bob McWhorter; his daughter, Reva Daniel; his wife, Etta Lee Farmer; his grandson, Robert Daniel.



Book reviews

YOUR MULE IS CROWING by Callie B. Young (Carlton Press, 112 pp., \$8.95) "It was the first day of kindergarten for Julia . . . suddenly, from the barnyard came a series of hee-haws as our mule, Coley, started braying. Julia, her eyes dancing with excitement, ran to me and in a gush for words, said, 'Mrs. Young, your mule is crowing.'"

This is only one of many delightful stories the author, Callie Young, tells in this account of her 25 years as founder and director of Kallie's Kiddie Kollege, a kindergarten in her home at Pontotoc. The stories are about the children in her kindergarten — nostalgic stories — funny, sad, all fascinating to anyone who loves children. As Bob Cook, editor emeritus of *The Pontotoc Progress*, said of the book "It's a story of a labor of love, told with love."

Mrs. Young's ten chapters offer concrete suggestions on how to deal with many problems parents and teachers of young children face, and tell how art, music, literature, and drama may be used to enrich their lives.

"The Lonesome Chair" talks about the need for discipline. "Once Upon a Beanstalk" recalls storytelling times. "Holiday Magic" recounts ways holidays were celebrated at kindergarten. "Happiness is a Pot of Sticky Glue" describes "The Mash and Splash" art center where the children's creativity could spill over. "Music in a Child's World" relates some of the musical experiences of the children.

Reading, 'rithmic were not taught at Kallie's Kiddie Kollege, but Mrs. Young says, "The Three R's could have been relationships, reality, and release, with the fourth R being religion. However, we did not 'teach' religion . . . A child may attribute to God whatever characteristics he sees in his parents or teachers."

Mrs. Young, who has lived most of her life in Pontotoc County, is married to Billy Young; they have four children, eleven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Readers of her book have a treat in store. — AWM

SEE HOW YOU ARE LOVED by Martha Nelson (Broadman, 159 pp.)

The author, Martha Nelson, is a native of Mississippi. She and her husband, Carl, lived in Pelahatchie, where he was pastor, before they moved to Blanchard, Oklahoma. (He has served as pastor of churches in Mississippi, Colorado, Missouri, and Oklahoma.)

Mrs. Nelson's main hobby, she says, is gardening. This shows in her use of illustrations about flowers in this book, which is a collection of brief devotional meditations. "Magnolia blossoms remind me that I am loved," she said. "And so do yellow roses."

The four sections of the book are "Enjoy the Lord" (see how he loves you); "Value Serenity" (see the resources a loving God supplies for coping with the strains and stresses of life); "Live Creatively" (see your creative potential, the gift of a loving God); and "Bring Your Caring Touch to Life" ('beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another' (1 John 4:11)).

As usual with Martha Nelson's books, this one is well written and interesting. It includes plenty of food for thought — and action — AWM

Brown, Lavonn D. THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH. Broadman: Nashville, 1987.

The book is the 11th installment in a planned series of 16 in the Layman's Library of Christian Doctrine. The author is pastor of First Baptist Church, Norman, Oklahoma, where he has served since 1970.

The book is divided into three broad sections with three chapters of the book devoted to each section. The first section deals with The Church: A Caring Community. The second deals with The Church: A Worshipping Community. The third deals with The Church: A Serving Community. The chapters on worship particularly spoke to my heart.

This is a good book. It is well written, and carefully laid out. It would be an excellent addition to any minister's library and would be extremely helpful to any lay-person. Reviewed by Greg Potts, Pastor, Providence Church, near Meadville.



Powerline for teens

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150

Christian should have inner control

QUESTION:

I have never been a Christian, but recently have wanted to know more about it. A girl friend of mine is an atheist and is outstanding in every way. On the other hand, one of my oldest friends is a Christian. She often does things Christians aren't supposed to do on the grounds that she can do anything she wants because she'll be forgiven. I'm confused between the two.

ANSWER:

Does it occur to you that you are comparing the best of one thing with the worst of another and that on this basis you stand to draw an erroneous conclusion? You can't

compare a superior atheist with a poor Christian — you need to compare the best of each.

Of course, the only reason for calling the girl in question a bad Christian is because the Bible covers this precise point. When she says she can do anything as a Christian, she is forgetting the Christian's inner control. When a person becomes a new person, as the New Testament says you do when you become a Christian, then you, by your new nature, don't want to do many of these things which you did before. And the more you grow in maturity, the more things you give up in order to gain other better things.

A good example is giving up anger and a bad temper for patience, understanding and love. This girl who says she is a Christian is like the guy who said you can stab your best friend with a knife as often as you want to. That's right, but the central fact is that you don't want to. Something within you controls what you want with regard to the friend.

Genuine Christians just don't like the evil nature of sin. Something has happened inside.

Staff changes

Shuqualak Church, Shuqualak, has called Donald Ray Tew of Dothan, Ala. as pastor.

Poplar Springs, Mendenhall, recently called Mike Aultman as pastor. Aultman and his family moved on the church field, June 23, from First Church, Ovett.

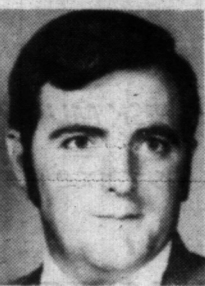
Lee Sanders has resigned as minister of youth at First Church, Columbus, and is returning to Missouri as associate pastor of the church where he served before moving to Columbus.

Pine Level Church, Greene County, has called Richard Dix as pastor.

First Church, Lucedale, has called Todd Evans of Hackleburg, Ala., a graduate of Samford University and student at New Orleans Seminary, as youth director.

East End Church, Columbus, has called J. Stephen Jackson as pastor. He goes from Flora church, Flora, where he had served since 1983. Jackson and his family were welcomed with an old fashioned pounding on Aug.

Jackson



Parker

James E. "Ed-die" Parker resigned Pecan Grove Church, Ellisville, May 22. His first Sunday at Shelton Church, Moselle, was June 5.



Cork

Ferrell O. Cork Jr., pastor at First Church, Aberdeen from 1972 until 1988, is the new pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson. A native of McLaurin, Miss., he is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He has served as a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and for several terms as a member of the Baptist Record Advisory Committee.

Tim McMillen has resigned as pastor of Bellevue Church, Pontotoc County, to become pastor of Sarepta Church, Calhoun County.

Tim Hatcher has resigned as youth director of Barton Church. He will continue his studies at New Orleans Seminary this fall.

First, Plantersville, will celebrate 100th

First Church, Plantersville, Lee Association, will celebrate its 100th anniversary, Sept. 4. Services will begin at 10 a.m. at which time all former pastors will be recognized and given a brief time to speak. Former pastor, David E. Hall, of Garland, Tex., will be guest speaker for 11 a.m. worship service. Lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall. Afternoon service at 1:30 will feature old-fashioned singing by various groups and individuals under the direction of Mark Hood, minister of music.

The church was organized on Saturday, Sept. 4, 1888, with 16 charter members. Many descendants of the charter members continue to worship at First Church, and will be recognized during the morning service. The church has a present membership of 502, with 317 resident members.

J. L. Turnage was the first pastor. Pastors of the church since 1938 have been: F. L. Brooks, F. V. McFatrige, J. D. Thompson, Charles M. Tyler, Joseph S. Johnson, Brooks Lindsey, Carey Sansing, David E. Hall, Ronald K. Burch, Richard H. Spencer, and the present pastor, Jimmy A. Smith.

Baptist presence

(Continued from page 6)

were Southern Baptist, 12 represented other Protestant denominations, six were Jewish and six were Catholic.

The volunteer chaplains roamed the massive Superdome, ministering and witnessing one-on-one with conventioners and volunteers. Six volunteers — two Protestant, two Catholic and two Jewish — were present at each convention session.

In addition, Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham offered the benediction at the close of the Monday evening session of the convention, which featured an address by President Ronald Reagan. Graham had led a benediction at the mid-July Democratic National Convention in Atlanta.

C. Lacy Thompson is associate editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message.

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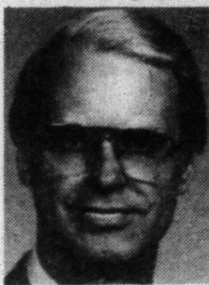
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Joey Fillingane, right, Oral Church, Sumrall, the Mississippi Bible drill winner, participated in a drill demonstration at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center during the mid-July Church Training Leadership Conference. He is shown with Michele Dove, left, of Parkway Church, Chester, S.C., and Lori Ellis, of First Church, Waterloo, Ill. Youth Bible drill is sponsored jointly by Baptist state conventions and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department. (Photo by Jim Veneman).

Benton Hayman, a member of First Church, Yazoo City, was presented the "Good Shepherd" Award, July 31. It is presented by the Association of Baptists for Scouting in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America. The purpose of the award is to acknowledge distinguished service by Baptist laypersons and pastors for their work through the church and its scouting program.



Hayman has served as a cubmaster and as scoutmaster for the church's Scout Troop #77. His scout leadership has already been recognized through previous awards such as the District Award of Merit, the Order of the Arrow, and Wood Badge.

Joe Bryan is chairman of the Boy Scout Committee.

First Church, Yazoo City, recently ordained Charles Loflin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Loflin of Yazoo City, to the gospel ministry. He is a graduate of Manchester Academy in Yazoo City and is continuing his education at Mississippi College. He served as youth minister at New Zion Church, Crystal Springs, and has recently been called as pastor of Sardis Church in Copiah County. James F. Yates is pastor.



Joe K. Hill, former pastor of Doty Springs Church, Attala County, is available for supply or interim pastorate. He can be contacted at 1577 Vernon Circle, Jackson, MS 39204 or call 373-2459.

Revival dates

Steele (Scott): Sept. 4-9; Sunday services, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Kenneth Walters, Nineteenth Avenue, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Tom Fox, pastor.

First, Lexington: Sept. 11-16; Sunday evening, 6; Mon.-Thurs., 7; Tom Atwood evangelist; Edd Brashier, music; Michael O'Brien, pastor.

Walnut (Tippah): Sept. 18-23; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 7 p.m.; Carroll Roberson, evangelist; Johnny Eaton of Providence Church, music leader; Guy T. Garrett Sr., pastor.

Revival results

Carmel, Monticello: Aug. revival; 15 professions of faith and baptisms; Donnie Guy, evangelist, preaching; Sammy J. McDonald, pastor.

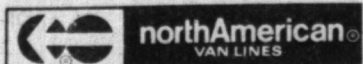
First Verona: Aug. 7-10; David Hamilton, pastor; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Terry Hurt, minister of music, West Jackson, Tupelo, music; 34 professions of faith.

Poplar Springs, Mendenhall: Sept. 17-21; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Aultman, pastor and evangelist; Alton Robinson, Ovett Church, music director.

Vietnamese language classes offered

William Carey College on the Coast will offer three classes in the Vietnamese language during its Fall Quarter (Sept. 5-Nov. 11).

Persons interested in taking the introductory or advanced class should contact the Bilingual Education Project Office in Harrison County (374-1922) or Jackson County (826-5465).



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Eight earn degrees from New Orleans

Eight from Mississippi received degrees in summer graduation exercises July 29 at New Orleans Seminary.

They are: John A. Nixon, Jr., Moss Point, pastor of North Calvary Church, Philadelphia (home church, Parkway, Pascagoula), master of divinity; Robert E. Parrish, Starkville, pastor of Rocky Point Church, Carthage (home church, Meadowview, Starkville), associate of divinity; Glenn A. Polsey, minister of music at Lake Forest Church, New Orleans (home church, First, Hattiesburg), master of religious

education;

Charles L. Jones, Greenwood, minister of music and youth at Calumet Church, Patterson, La. (home church, First, Greenwood), master of religious education; Kenneth W. Moore, Montpelier, pastor of Enon Church, Jayess (home church, Arbor Grove, Houston), master of divinity; Frank W. Gunn Jr., Biloxi, associate pastor with emphasis in youth and recreation, First, Pascagoula (home church, First, Biloxi), master of divinity;

Alan W. Blount, Pearl, interim minister of education and evangelism,

First Church, Arabi, La., (home church, First, Barnesville, Ga.) master of divinity; C. Perry Sanderford, Brandon (home church, Pine Lake, Brandon), master of divinity.

Off the Record

"I want to get some beet leaves for my husband," the customer declared. "Do these have any poison spray on them?"

"I'm sorry, lady," replied the grocer, "but you'll have to get that at the drug store."

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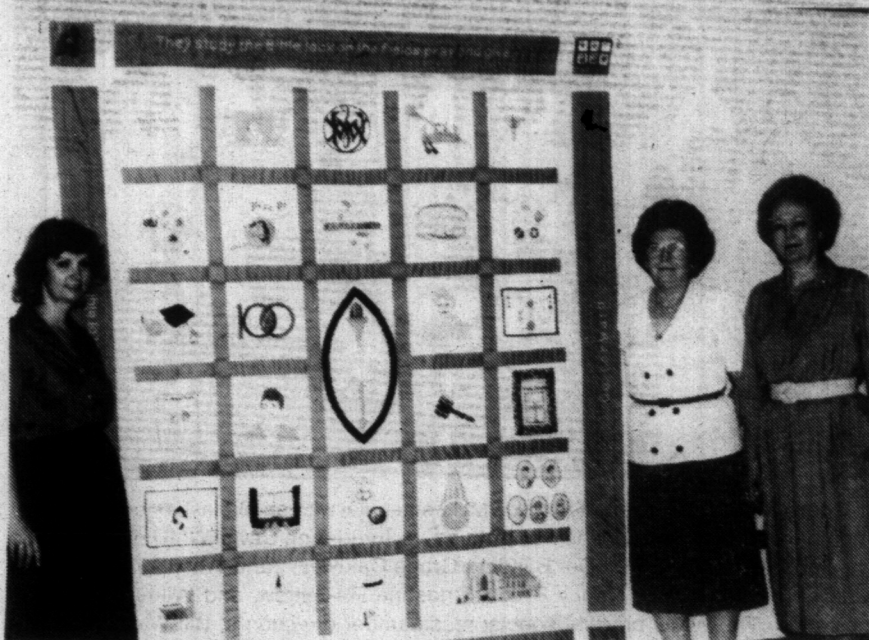
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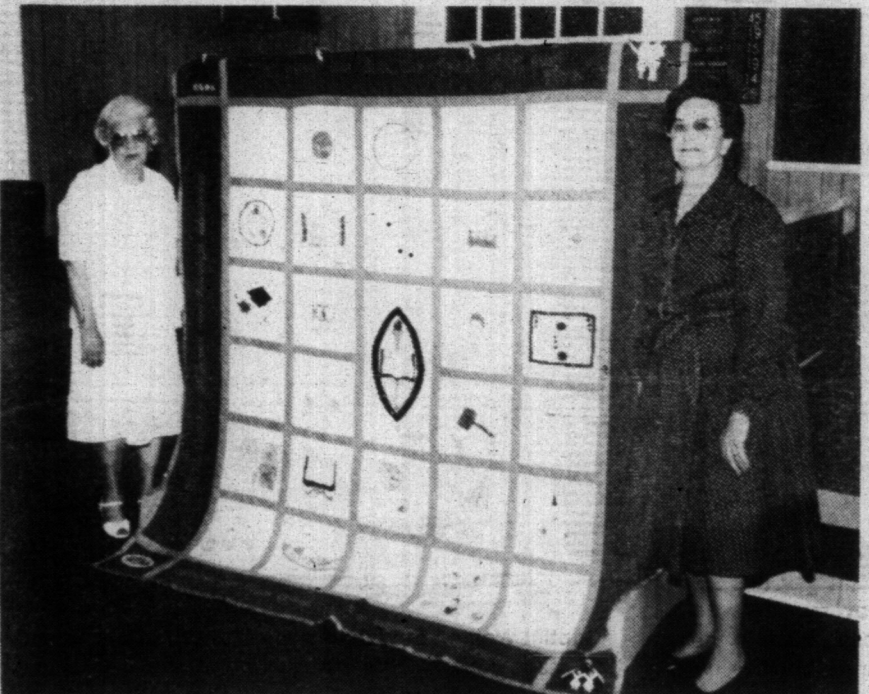
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Just for the Record



First Church, Laurel, WMU centennial quilt features a special square honoring career missionaries, Dan and Lydia Jones, and an intricate cross-stitch of the church sanctuary. Standing by the quilt are Mrs. Woody Barham, Jr. (L) WMU Centennial co-chairman; Mrs. D. A. Williams, quilt chairman; and Mrs. Arnold Sullivan, quilt co-chairman.

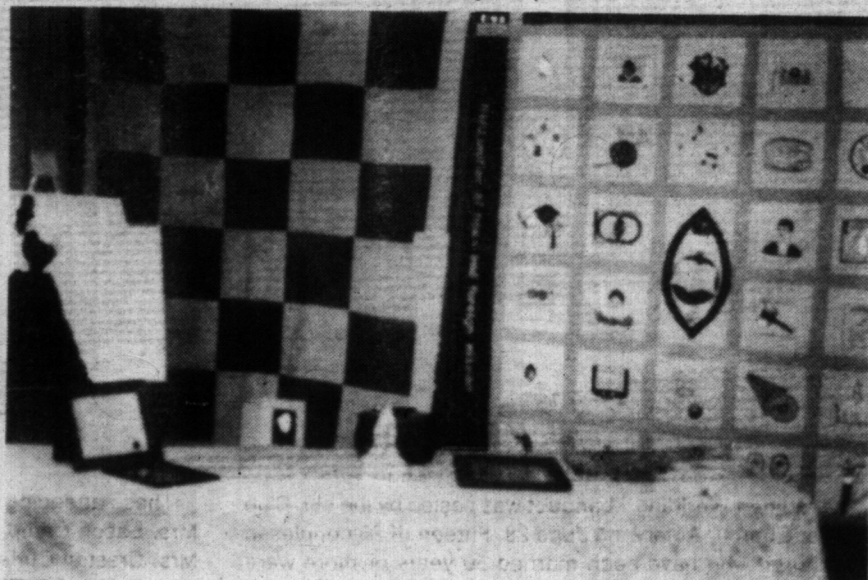


East Fork Church, Amite County, presented a WMU centennial program on May 15, planned by Mrs. Johnny McKnight, centennial chairman, and Mrs. Martha Wicker, WMU director. A centennial quilt was displayed. Pictured are Mrs. Norma Langenstein, quilt chairman and Mrs. Mable Moore, quilt co-chairman. Not pictured: Mrs. Patty Sylvest, another quilt co-chairman. Twelve women took part in making the squares and quilting.



Simpson Association celebrated the WMU centennial with a birthday party at the Association Center. Mrs. Ellen Johns, shown at left, associational centennial chairman, presented a history of Simpson WMU written by Mrs. Curlane Smith, associational Baptist Women's director. H. Glen Schilling, director of missions, spoke.

Churches which had displays of their WMU history included Beulah, D'Lo, Eastside, Goodwater, Oak Grove, Pine Grove, and Poplar Springs. Goodwater and Beulah displayed new



centennial quilts. Beulah displayed a quilt made by their Baptist Women in 1931 with names of their church families. Beulah's old and new quilts are pictured. Janice Ainsworth, associational Mission Friends director, and her husband, Randy, presented the association a needlepoint of all WMU insignias. Mrs. Anne Sullivan, Strong River WMU director, had made a birthday cake to serve the more than 50 in attendance.

Both Oak Grove and Pine Grove are celebrating the 50th year of their WMU, along with the 100th of the national WMU.

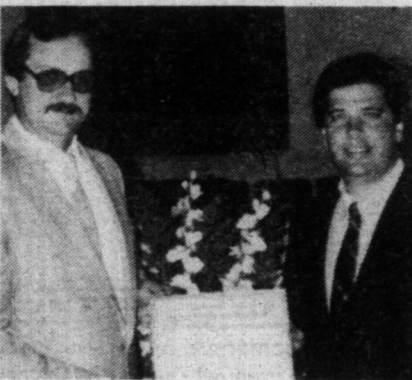
Carmel Church, Monticello, recently completed one of its largest Vacation Bible Schools on record. Enrollment was 204 with an average attendance of 176. Three professions of faith were made during the school. Sammy McDonald is pastor and served as director.

Results at Dorroh Lake Assembly, Bellefontaine, (Webster) were Girls Camp, July 11-14, 91 campers with eight professions of faith and 19 rededications; Boys Camp, July 18-21, 63 campers with 14 professions of faith and 14 rededications. David Hamilton was director.



South Louisville Church, Louisville, burned the first note in the church's history, July 31. The loan was against the pastorium, but also covered church improvements such as new air conditioning units. Since June of 1987 the church paid over \$40,000 against the principal of the loan on its Family Life Center.

Pictured (left to right) are Phil Fancher, chairman of deacons; Clarence Woods, trustee; and Robert Flynn, trustee.



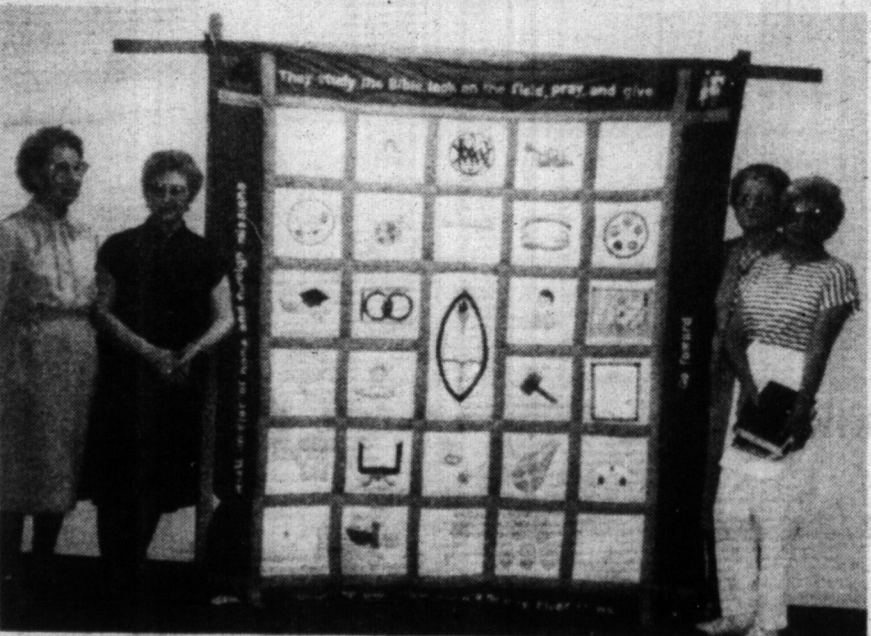
New Hope Church, Lee County, licensed Lowell Ingram to the gospel ministry, July 10. He is the son of Ethelyn Ingram of Duck Hill and the late James D. Ingram. Ingram and his wife, Mary Jo, have two children, Joel and Joseph. Pictured (left to right) are Ingram and Rickey Blythe, pastor.



GAs of First Church, Cleveland held their annual recognition service at the close of the school year. Receiving pins presented by their mothers were the following sixth graders, Jennie Rives, Dady Hardy, Kim Miller, Heather Robinson and Cynthia Van Namen. Sarah Rives presented her sister, Jenni, with a Mission Adventure charm for having completed all six of her Missions Adventure badges. Pictured, left to right, first row are Laura Lynn Denton, Heather Shannon, Jennifer Hunter, Raegan Meeks, Kelly Wilder; second row, Kim Miller, Jennifer Ford, Barbara Kleis, Heather Robinson, Katherine Meyer; third row, Myra Kleis, GA director, Corey Fitzgerald, Tracey Garrett, Mira Denton, Heather Miller, Faith Sancone, Jerry Sansone, GA leader, fourth row — Patsy Reese, GA leader, Jenni Rives, Rivers Smith, Meg Goodman, Destin Fitzgerald, Mary Jo Ann Peden, Dady Hardy, and Cristy Reed, GA leader. Not pictured is Cynthia Van Namen. Also participating in the program was Mrs. Juanita Sanders, WMU director.



Leake County Association's WMU celebrated the centennial of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, on May 14 at Sunrise Church, Leake County. Mrs. Wanda Johnson, host WMU director, is shown with a collection of pictures of WMU members of past years. A history of several churches was presented during the program.



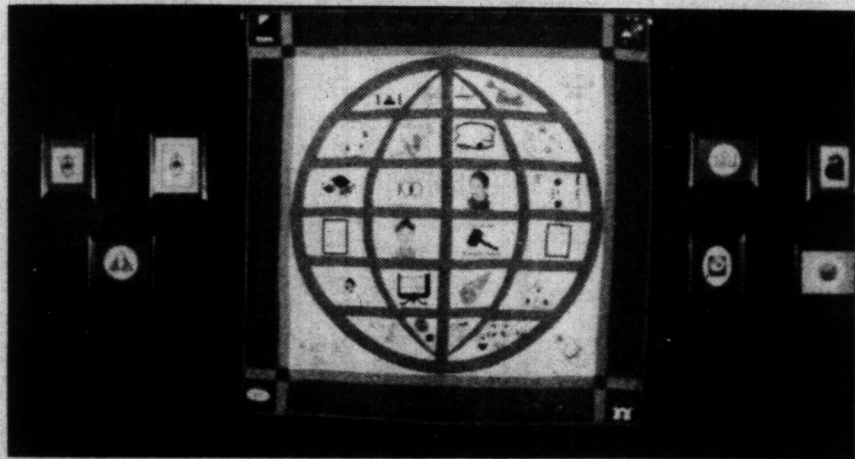
Members of Woman's Missionary Union of First Church, Plantersville, made a WMU centennial quilt which will be presented to the church on Sept. 4, at the church's centennial celebration. It is currently on display at the Lee County Library. Left to right are Nola Berryman, Billie Stanley, Estelle Francis, and Aleene Sample. Others who helped on the quilt were Olivia Polk, WMU centennial chairman, Carolyn Matthews, WMU director, Sarah Walker, Irene Taylor, Mauvaline Harris, and Dean Thorn.

It displayed a centennial quilt they had made, pictured.

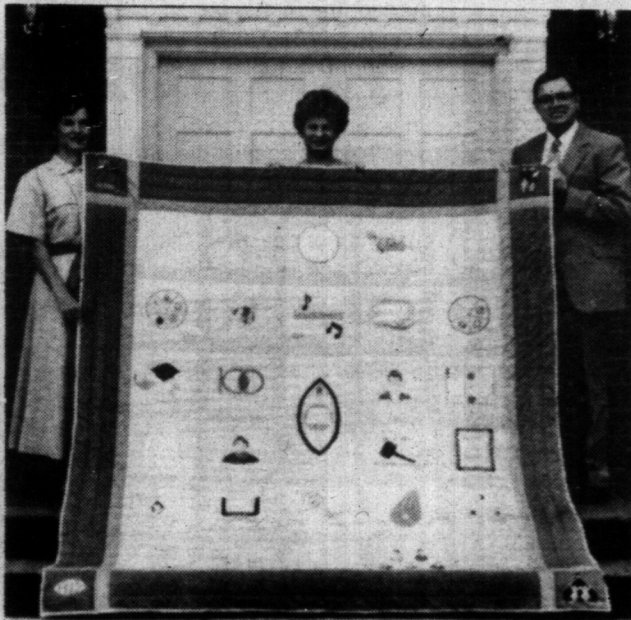


Women of East Booneville Church, celebrated the WMU centennial by completing a quilt, displayed at a Prentiss Association celebration on May 21. Standing, L to R, are Syble Ford, Shelaine Church, Barbara Borden, K. T. Burcham, Ilene Geno, Liz Beasley, Willard Tigrett, Dewdrop Shields, Max-

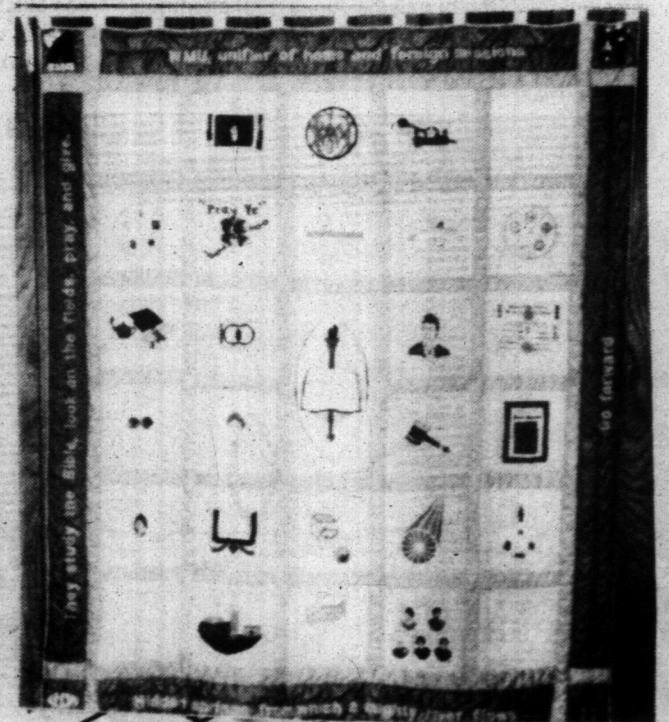
ola Bonds, Mary Street, Vivian Livingston, Elaine Clauch, Alice Horn. Sitting, L to R, are Martha Shields, Louise Johnson, Janet Smith, Linda Shields, Dyann Hannon, Allie Shields, and Violet Carter.



Bethel Church, Louisville's Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women pieced and quilted a WMU centennial quilt which has been hung in the church fellowship hall. Counted cross-stitch pictures of WMU age-level insignias were made by members, to be hung beside the quilt. WMU members presented a program on May 22, "WMU Yesterday-Today." Special guests included Mrs. Hugh Martin, who organized GA and YWA at Bethel, and former members, Mrs. Waldine Triplett is centennial chairman. Terry Hall is pastor. Mrs. Ethel Haggard taught the book, "A Century to Celebrate," history of Woman's Missionary Union by Catherine Allen.



A WMU centennial quilt was made by members and presented to Walthall Church, Webster Association, in their centennial celebration. Left to right: Mrs. Lounette Hughes, quilt coordinator and president; Mrs. Marvie Stewart, centennial chairman; William Weddle, pastor.



Baptist Women of Williamsville Church, Attala Association, made a WMU centennial quilt which is on display in the church fellowship hall. Mrs. Catherine Pettit is WMU director; Mrs. Alada Owens is Baptist Women president.

Senior Adult Corner



A "Golden Wedding" banquet was hosted by the LLL Club of First Church, Amory, on June 28. Fifteen of 25 couples in the church who have been married 50 years or more were honored.

Each couple was presented corsages upon arrival and directed to the guest table.

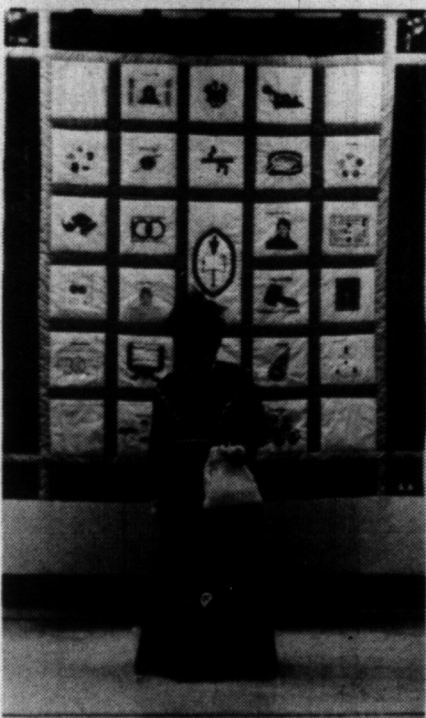
Music from the past, and traditional wedding songs were presented during the arrival and serving of guests.

Senior adults of First Church, Tchula, met on July 12 to organize the Love, Joy, and Friendship (L. J. F.) Club. Mrs. Joanne Ingold of Lexington, Holmes Association senior adult director, spoke. Officers elected were Mrs. Mary Alice Dickard, presi-

dent; Mrs. Charlotte Blackstock, program coordinator; Mrs. Horace Ables, secretary; and Mrs. Ladell Blanton, the pastor's wife, vice-president. One of the many activities they are planning is a trip to Eureka Springs, Ark., to see the Passion Play.

Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bonds, Mr. and Mrs. Eason Camp, Mr. and Mrs. O'Neal Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Creston Christian, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Drennon Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Flowers, Mr. and Mrs. O'Nease Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hood, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Murry, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Morris, and Mr. and Mrs. Guy Pickle.

We store in our minds just the few blocks that surround us. Such useless trash that will not lift one foot off the earth toward heaven. IT TAKES OUR TIME HERE AND SPACE IN THE MIND. — Tex McPherson, Dallas.



The WMU of Washington County Association held a 100th birthday celebration at the Family Life Center of First, Greenville. Mrs. Grady Allen, member of First, Greenville, was the one present who had belonged longest to WMU. Mary Alice Potter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Potter of Calvary Church, wearing her christening dress and bonnet, was youngest of the 75 present. Mrs. Allen and Mary Alice are shown at right. A fashion parade featured Mrs. Marie Tate of First, Greenville, wearing the oldest authentic costume, pictured at left. Twenty-one churches presented historic displays. One church had a new cookbook for sale. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fulmer, Sr. displayed a centennial quilt they had made, pictured.



Not "if" suffering comes — but when

By Robert Earl Shirley

Job 1:1-2:10

This week we begin a four lesson series on selected passages from the book of Job. As we consider his suffering, we will hopefully find



Shirley

ways to deal with our own suffering and ways to be of help to others in such circumstances. The first lesson does not deal with "if" suffering comes but with "when." Suffering comes to even those who trust in God, and each person must be prepared to deal with it in his own life.

The Bible presents Job as a righteous man, a person of integrity, a good family man who loved his wife and children. The fact that his suffering was not the result of his own sin is verified by the Lord's description of him as a unique, blameless, upright individual who feared God and shunned evil. Each of us needs to look at our life and determine if this is what might be said of us. We are all examples of some type and are presenting some type of

UNIFORM

testimony to the world.

The world's view of success is seen in the enumerating of Job's possessing of thousands of sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys, and servants. Society in that day considered such wealth to be a visible indication of one's personal righteousness. All of this wealth apparently had been gained without the use of dishonest means, and his real greatness is seen in that he did not succumb to the self-righteousness and self-esteem that too often occurs in overly blessed men. Here was also a person who with all his responsibilities did not allow them to crowd out his obligations and devotions to God.

Satan, although not denying the quality of Job's life, questioned his motives and charged that he was serving God for the selfish purpose of gaining for himself prosperity and favor. He further suggested that if God would take away his possessions and allow adversity to come, Job would curse God to his face. Such a claim could be substantiated in the lives of far too many today. All of us have probably known peo-

ple who were faithful church people as long as they were in good health and prospered. However, when they were laid off from work, lost their health, or suffered some other misfortune, they put the blame on God, quit the church, and grew bitter toward life in general.

God allowed Satan to take away Job's possessions but commanded him not to do harm to Job himself. We need to understand that although God allows suffering, he is not always its source. He desires only that which is good for each of us. Much of that which is bad in our lives is of our own choosing, and much comes without any obvious reasons being apparent.

Job's response to his suffering was to remain faithful even after his possessions and children were taken away. His assurance and dedication were expressed in his words, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord." One's faith should not depend on one's outward circumstances in life. Job expressed a wise evaluation of earthly possessions when he said that he came into this world without anything, and he would leave it the same way.

In good times, one may well rejoice in the fact

that it is by the grace of God that he is alive and able to work to achieve and advance his position in society. In the bad times, one can find comfort in knowing that the same God is with him and will never leave him nor forsake him. Earthly wealth and loved ones may be taken away, but that which had been invested in heaven is his forever.

Satan's next charge was that every man has his price. If God would not afflict him bodily, Job would renounce him to his face. Thus God caused him to be smote with loathsome and painful sores, that remind us of leprosy, covering him from head to toe. Once again his faith remained steadfast.

His was a faith that was not dependent upon others and one that withstood the suggestion of his wife that he renounce God and die. Again Job's response was that one's faith must not depend on receiving only good from God. Satan had said that the good man Jehovah had chosen would renounce God, but Job's lips refused to speak such words.

Robert Shirley is pastor emeritus, Parkway, Tupelo.

Giving: A personal response to God's blessing

By Steve Odom

Genesis 28:12-17, 20-22

Personal relationships are part and parcel of the human experience. Without them, we find ourselves stumbling through dark corridors of



Odom

self-pity and maladjustment. Reflecting upon the prison discipline of solitary confinement may lead us to the conclusion that it is cruel and unusual punishment. Why? Because it is inhuman treatment to isolate someone from the human relationships which are essential to survival. Scientists

have demonstrated over and over again that without the personal, consistent contact of our own species, we do not develop in healthy ways, and there is even the possibility of death. The necessity of personal relationships that provide us acceptance, affirmation, and accessibility is unquestioned. Without such relationships, life proves to be more of a burden than a blessing.

The story of the book of Genesis is the story of God's creating us in relationship to persons

LIFE AND WORK

and to himself. The story of Jacob in the Genesis narrative is the tragic account of a con- niver who valued his own ambition more than personal relationships. Jacob was, in a sense, a non-person, for he had cut himself off, exiled himself from the people who gave him life. His world had become a place of fear, terror, loneliness, and unresolved guilt, a self-imposed solitary confinement.

Genesis 28 records an amazing transformation in Jacob occasioned by the coming of God to him in a dream. The dream presented Jacob with an alternative way of life. It was not a morbid review of a shameful past, but a surprising preview of a future with God. The blessing of Abraham was about to become the blessing of Jacob, that his descendants would populate the earth and bless the earth (v. 14). Verse 15, then, is really a dream come true for Jacob. Everything that Jacob had seemingly forfeited by his conniving, primarily his sense of relationship to God and people, was given back to

him in the undeserved, unexpected blessing of God.

Jacob was promised the presence of God (v. 15a). God would be to Jacob what he eventually would be to all people in Jesus — Emmanuel, God with us. God then promised Jacob the blessing of protection (v. 15b). It is the picture of the good shepherd who cares for the helpless sheep. Finally, Jacob is promised a homecoming (v. 15c). His exile would end as he would be brought back to his homeland. Jacob, the non-person, was given back his personhood through the sheer grace of God.

God's promise was met by Jacob's response. The promise came in a dream, but Jacob was wide awake when he responded (vv. 16-22). He decided the world of his dream was more real than his waking world of fear and guilt. He decided to embrace the dream of God's invitation to a new reality. God's promise demanded a personal decision, and Jacob did make deep commitments (vv. 20-22). He made vows that completely reoriented his life.

The vows made by Jacob were sealed by two cultic acts: the erecting of a sacred pillar and the payment of a tithe. The pillar represents

sustained, disciplined worship. The tithe represents the recognition that the land belongs to God. In personal response to God's undeserved blessing, Jacob worshiped and he gave.

We are Jacob. We have alienated ourselves from others and from God by our own choice. We have forfeited our personhood for the birthright of evil, a birthright of things. And more often than we care to admit, we feel like non-persons in places of exile. Yet, there is good news. God's grace is like a dream come true. He blesses us with acceptance, affirmation, and accessibility.

Even while we seek rest in places of exile, he seeks us and gives us back our personhood. And the only appropriate response to such grace, is a personal response of giving. We give God our allegiance as an act of worship and our tithe as a recognition that God is the real owner of everything. Committing a tithe to God is a necessary response to God's blessing of new life in Christ. If we are able to respond, there is no better way to be responsible.

Steve Odom is pastor, University Church, Hattiesburg.

The Last Supper begins with a prediction by Jesus

By Frank H. Thomas, Jr.

Matthew 26:1-30

This passage begins the narrative of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It begins with a prediction by Jesus that he would



Thomas

be betrayed and crucified. A plot to accomplish this end is described in verses 3-5. The chief priests and elders of the people assembled in the court of the high priest who was Joseph Caiaphas. They did not consult about whether or not to crucify Jesus — the decision to kill him had already been made.

Their discussion was how this work should be done. They were cautious to point out that Jesus should not be seized during the feast for fear of the people.

The next verses 6-13 are about the anointing of Jesus at Bethany. He found himself in the house of Simon the leper. Simon probably was a recovered leper or else the people would not have been in his house for fear of contamination. A woman who in other gospels was identified as Mary of Bethany but who simply is referred to as a woman in this gospel brought an alabaster jar of perfume and poured upon the head of Jesus as he was reclining at table.

BIBLE BOOK

The disciples were indignant over this action and criticized the woman's action as wasteful. Why, this ointment could have been sold and the proceeds given to the poor!

Jesus balanced his teaching in the previous chapter about ministry to the poor with instruction here that extravagant and loving acts were also acceptable in the kingdom of God. The woman had done a good and beautiful work unto him. They would have the poor always with them, but him they would not always have. The woman had anointed his body for burial. This could have been a prediction of foretelling of the death and burial of Jesus and might not have been understood by those who were present. Nevertheless, Jesus said that this act of the woman would be remembered throughout the whole world where the gospel was preached as a memorial of her. We remember her, but her name is not given.

The high priests and scribes of the people had looked for some way of taking Jesus into their custody. The offer of Judas to betray Jesus was just the offer for which they had been looking. They promised him 30 pieces of silver, about the price of a slave. From that point Judas sought a propitious time to betray Jesus into the hands

of his enemies.

The remainder of this passage deals with the Passover meal which Jesus ate with his disciples. In verse 17 we find two festivals listed together: The Festival of Unleavened Bread and the Passover. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was an eight-day celebration, whereas the Passover was killed and eaten on the 14th of Nisan (March-April). The city intended is Jerusalem, and Jesus was identifying his time as being at hand. This meant that the time for his crucifixion and resurrection, the fulfillment of his ministry and of God's plan of redemption for the world was at hand.

The disciples went to make ready the Passover celebration. When the even was come, Jesus and the disciples reclined together at table as they ate this symbolic meal which memorialized the passing over by the angel of death. As they ate, Jesus emphasized to them that one of them would betray him. The disciples were exceedingly sorrowful and began to ask the question, "It isn't I, is it, Lord?" They were questioning their own innocence and wondering if any one of them could possibly be guilty of betraying their Master.

The reply of Jesus was that "he who dips in the dish with me will betray me." This could have been any one of them, but the scripture goes on to say that when Judas came to ask of Jesus, "It isn't I, is it, Rabbi?" Jesus said,

"Thou hast said." Such would be the guilt of that one who betrayed Jesus that it would be good had he not been born. Eventually Jesus took the 30 pieces of silver back and threw them at the feet of the high priest and committed suicide. While the disciples were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, broke it and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat, this is my body." Afterward he took the cup and gave it to them as a symbol of his blood of the covenant which was poured out on behalf of many for the remission of sins. Both of these elements were symbols of the body and blood of Jesus.

Baptists have taught historically that the Lord's Supper is a memorial, and it can be an expression of hope for the future. Some have called it a communion of the body of Christ, that is, the church. When Jesus said that he would not drink from henceforth of the fruit of the vine until that day when he would drink it new with them in the kingdom of his Father, he was talking about the coming kingdom or the coming rule of God in the lives of all God's people.

This precious Last Supper reminds us of the covenant which Jesus established with his people assuring both those who were with him then and those who have followed in years to come the eternal life which he promises.

Frank H. Thomas is pastor, Alta Woods, Jackson.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, MS 39213, (601) 922-2242

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

July 27, 1988 -
August 10, 1988

MEMORIALS

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Pearl River Farmer's Coop.
Mr. T. G. "Blackie" Blackwell
Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Kees Jr.
Hugh & Joe Ann Ward
Mary Dudley & Robert
Regan
Mrs. Winnie Bonds
First Baptist Church,
Beaumont
Mrs. Woodie Boswell
Ms. Mary Evelyn Vincent
Bobby Bouchillon
Mrs. Thelma Jennings
Mrs. Eva Bowman
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Mashburn
Mrs. Elizabeth Boyette
The Colluras
The Tomlinsons
Mary Brassfield
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Charlie Brewer
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Mrs. Velma McKay Britt
Mack & Jessie Britt
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Robert E. Brown
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Mrs. Mattie Bryant
Barney & Myrtice Cook
Homebound Department,
Alta Woods Baptist Church
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Mr. & Mrs. Billy Armstrong
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Florence Hardin Puls
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Class, Columbus
Inez Chadwick
Strong Hope Furlow Sunday
School Class
Randy Allen Churchwell
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew J.
Churchwell
Mrs. Blanche Coats
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Mashburn
Mrs. Flossie Colston
Jerry, Becky & Josh
Arrowood
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Mrs. June T. Brooks
Purvis Crowell
Mrs. Jessie S. Brooks
Mr. Purvis Crowley
Opal Vickers
James "Boyd" Cummins
Mr. Ellis O. Cummins
Mrs. Lucille Cunningham
Mrs. Joan W. Horst
Mr. Willie G. Cutts
Mr. & Mrs. G. Wayne Smith
Mrs. J. T. Bradberry
The Bob Power Family
Mrs. Johnnie Cutts
Ms. Augusta Peacock
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Willing Workers Class, New
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Grace Sunday School Class,
Edwards Baptist Church
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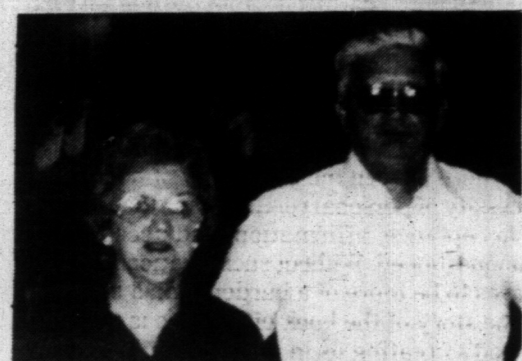
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Mrs. H. L. Thompson
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Greenwood
Mrs. Eloise Moffett
Mrs. E. A. Hammond
Carol Montgomery
Mr. & Mrs. G. Wayne Smith
Mrs. Annie Laurie Mouchett
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Evans
Mrs. Felton Oliver & Mrs.
Poland Archie
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Perkins
Paul Murphy
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June Sullivan
Mr. Randle Nest
Fellowship Sunday School
Class, First Baptist Church,
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Mrs. Pearl Newcomer
Eleanor & Arlin Upchurch
Odom
Larry & Shirley Bonds
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William Earl Neyland
Kelly Burris
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Mrs. Fern M. Lyter
Mrs. Barbara Pittman
Mr. Edwin Pittman
Mann Polk
Ms. Eloyce C. Hollinger
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Bobby Joe
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Walker
Mr. Louis E. Puckett
Mrs. Willis T. Matthews
Mrs. Robert Rials
Ms. Thelma Anderson

Ways To Help The Village With Our Mailing List

1. Call our attention to needed changes in names and address (do it repeatedly if necessary until we make the changes).
2. Share with us when you discover deceased family and friends' names are still on our list. Do be specific as to the name and last address before death. Many write to request a "loved one" be dropped but fail to name the individual and even sometimes fail to sign their own name and/or address. A classic example happened recently — "Please take my mother's name off your list because of her death." Whoever this is will remain on the list until we know who it is.
3. Be consistent in the use of a name when making contributions. Call attention to DUPLICATIONS. Let me illustrate how duplications get in a computer:
Dr. and Mrs. Kermit D. McGregor, Sr.
Dr. and Mrs. Kermit D. McGregor
Dr. and Mrs. Kermit Dale McGregor
Dr. and Mrs. K. Dale McGregor
Dr. and Mrs. Dale McGregor
Dr. Kermit McGregor
Mrs. Kermit McGregor
Mrs. Phyllis McGregor
Mrs. Phyllis Lane McGregor
Kermit and Phyllis McGregor
The Kermit McGregors
4. Be patient with us. We are human too. We are trying to upgrade and expand our list because an extraordinary percentage of our \$2,330,000.00 operational budget is given in response to DIRECT MAIL APPEALS.
5. Please understand also that due to volume we have to print some letters weeks and sometimes months ahead of the actual posted date.
6. May God reward all of you who pray for and contribute to us via the Cooperative Program and direct mail.

Call, write or come to see us if we can help YOU and/or YOUR FAMILY

Dedicated Child Care Workers



Rev. & Mrs. Johnnie Lee

Johnnie and Ruth Lee, natives of Jasper County, have been employed as child care workers since August 1, 1986. They serve in Quarles Cottage, a girls' cottage on The India Nunnery Campus. For thirteen years Bro. Lee shared his faith with the Youth Detention Center in Jackson. Licensed and ordained by Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson, Johnnie previously served as pastor of Clear Springs Baptist Church in Smith Association and at Calvary Baptist Church in Jasper Association. The Lees have three children and three grandchildren.

Dr. E. Storey
Barney & Myrtice Cook
Mr. W. D. R. Stovall
Mr. & Mrs. Norman L.
Burton
Mr. & Mrs. William R.
Morgan Sr.
Robert C. & Mary Lee
Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Selby Barnes

Mrs. Ivy Carlisle Sullivan
Winnie Carlisle & Family
J. W. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde F. Smith
Margaret Taylor
Mrs. Gwendolyn W. Reid

(To be continued)

Baptist Record

Devotional

World evangelization groups to meet in Asia

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — More than 400 plans exist among Christians to evangelize the world by the end of this century, and the authors of many of them will meet next January in southeast Asia to find ways to cooperate.

The Global Consultation on World Evangelization by A.D. 2000 and Beyond will be held Jan. 5-8, probably in Manila. The agenda is open-ended: many of the sessions will allow participants to interact and find out exactly what others are doing to carry out world evangelization.

Most historical attempts to evangelize the entire world have failed, mission researchers say, primarily because of disorganization, isolation, and competition among Christians themselves.

"What's happening now is very different, especially in the last few years," said Thomas Wang, the Chinese chairman of the consultation's steering committee and international director of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. Wang was in Richmond, Va., June 4-6 meeting with a small program committee to plan an agenda for the January world consultation.

"All of a sudden it seems many of God's servants all over the world have begun to take the end of this century, not as a magical number, but as a

target, a goal, a stimulation for world evangelization," Wang said. "Is something happening? What is God trying to say to us? There has never been an age in the history of the church that is more qualified to tackle this task of world evangelization in terms of manpower, resources, technology, communications and transportation."

The multitude of plans set to climax in the year 2000 include world strategies of the three biggest international gospel broadcasting agencies, Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust, and Campus Crusade for Christ's New Life 2000, among hundreds of others.

"Some are weak and some are inactive," Wang said. "But some are really pushing forward, and among those active ones about 20 really have a global overview being actively pursued."

No single group is sponsoring the gathering. An informal steering committee of 12 international mission leaders met in Los Angeles May 18, representing such agencies as the Lausanne committee, World Vision, the 2-million-member Evangelical Churches of West Africa, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Partners International, Campus Crusade, and the U.S. Center for World Mission. They adopted five "purposes" for a

proposed world consultation:

1. To accelerate the growing interest, attention, momentum, and prayer in the body of Christ for world evangelization by A.D. 2000.

2. To promote mutual encouragement and the exchange of information among denominations and agencies which are planning for world evangelization by A.D. 2000.

3. To promote cooperative efforts in world evangelization among those planning around the milestone of A.D. 2000.

4. To encourage denominations and agencies which have yet to set A.D. 2000 goals to set ones that are biblical, measurable and strategic.

5. To lay the foundation for further consultations to be held at later dates at the regional and national level.

Invitations to the consultation are going to key denominational, parachurch and mission groups by region, continent and movement, with an emphasis on full representation from the fast-growing Christian church of the Third World and Southern Hemisphere.

"We're trying our very best to say this movement has an international ownership," Wang stressed. "The Third World must not feel this is something from the West alone. It is the whole body of Christ that together has given birth to this movement, although God has used the Lausanne people and Southern Baptists and many others."

Another non-negotiable element is the primary importance of world evangelization itself, according to consultation program chairman Bill O'Brien of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"We're saying very openly from the outset to all those invited (that the consultation is for) those who have plans or have shown a commitment" to world evangelization, O'Brien explained.

Erich Bridges writes for the FMB.

Go wash your girdle

By Bobby Williamson
Jeremiah 13

I was thousands of miles from home when God vividly revealed a message to me from the 13th chapter of Jeremiah . . . 17 long, hot grueling days had been spent preaching in the jungles of Nigeria. Bananas and hot coke had



Williamson

been the basic menu, I missed my wife and 8-year-old son very much. Johnson had turned eight just two days earlier, and I was far away. I longed for that fellowship with my son, and in the too brief communication I had had with home, it was apparent he longed for that fellowship with his father.

It is apparent that God also longs for fellowship with each one of us.

I'm sure it seemed to Jeremiah a strange thing that God told him to get a girdle, and especially strange not to wash it. And then, to hide it under a rock! How ridiculous! But God said it, and Jeremiah did it. And because of that, God was able to use Jeremiah. There is certainly a message here for each of us. First of all, God wants his people to be as close to him as a girdle is to a body, and certainly that's close. Now I don't pretend to understand why God wants to fellowship with me, but I find in God's Word that he created us for fellowship. He wants us close to him.

Second, we learn from Jeremiah that the girdle got dirtier and dirtier, and God told Jeremiah to take it clear out of the country. The message here is if we're going to be close to God, we must be clean. And finally, if we stay clean, and stay close to God, he will make us useful. And it is thrilling to know that God can use us. If we are to be used, we must hear God's direction for our lives, and no matter how strange it may seem to us, or others, we must do it. Then God can use us. Our prayer daily should be, "Oh God, please use me today!"

Bobby Williamson is pastor of Park Place Baptist Church — Brandon/Pearl.

Missionary news

Mike and Kathie Chute, missionaries to Asia and the Pacific, have arrived on the field to begin language study (address: P. O. Box 427, Taipei 10099, Taiwan ROC). He serves as overseas correspondent and communication consultant for Asia and the Pacific. He was born in Illinois. She is the former Katherine Bengel of Brookhaven, Miss.

Virgil and Amy Cooper, missionaries to Korea, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 3001 Crawford St., Montgomery, Ala. 36111). He was born in Water Valley, Miss. She is the former Amy Gunter of Andalusia, Ala.

Jon and Emily Lorch, missionary associates to The Gambia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Baptist Mission, P. O. Box 2376, Sere Kunda via Banjul, The Gambia). He was born in Illinois. The former Emily Ishee of Mississippi, she was born in Hattiesburg.

Jonathan and La Homa Singleton, missionaries to Windward Islands, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Hewanorra Baptist Centre, P. O. Box 333, Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, W.I.). He is a native of Belzoni.

Ronnie and Beth Parker, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa Postal 2662, 60.121 Fortaleza, CE, Brazil). He was born in Hattiesburg. She was born in New Orleans, La.

Paul and Vera Johnson, missionaries to the Philippines, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Campbell University, Box 1029, Buies Creek, N.C. 27506). He is a native of Bassfield, Miss.

Reception honors retiring pastor at State Boulevard

Pastor and Mrs. W. F. Evans were honored with a reception by State Boulevard Church, Meridian, Sunday, Aug. 14, on the occasion of his retirement from 45 years in the active ministry.

Friends and relatives from Meridian and throughout the state attended.

Esco Johnson, chairman of deacons, presented a check from the church to Evans. Love gifts from members included a Lazy-Boy recliner for him and jewelry for Mrs. Evans.

W. F. Evans was pastor of State Boulevard for the past nine years. The Evanses will live in Meridian.

SCRAPBOOK

"And all who came to his table were fed"

There is a woman who loiters at Jesus' feet,
who not knowing the ways of the world
has wrung mercy from him with her very fears.
Words of prayer often fail her, but he hears
her weary need intensely burning
and he answers her yearning.

She arises then to tread her useful way,
not letting yesterday cloud today.
As from God, a few day stars illuminate her eyes
and she will bear them to the skies.

I see crepe myrtle petals fallen
and scattered, decorating the ground.
God's mercy is profound
like belated flowering of the trees.
The red myrtle that grew in the shade
blooms later in the breeze.

All that gorgeous display, summer's end pending,
comes from the abundance of his love overspending.
Gracious, tender is the eternal message from God.

— Violet Tackett, McComb

God loves us all

God really loves us all
And when we hear his call
We should do our best
To stand up to any test.

He's the only salvation
Of this entire creation
Those of us who understand
Should try to tell the entire land.

If each could reach just one more,
That's twice as many as before.
Soon with God's plan of salvation
We might win this entire nation.

With help of man, woman,
boy and girl —
Maybe even this whole world.

—Glyn Dora Boyles
Flora

Baptist Record

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901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

September 1, 1988

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